FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 MARCH 1987

DRA-Pakistan

Following repeated warnings by Pakistan to the DRA about airspace violations, the Pakistani Air Force shot down an intruding Afghan aircraft on 30 March, Karachi radio announced. The plane crashed north of Parachinar, the radio noted. Monitored Afghan media were not observed to report the incident.

Chadian Conflict

A military communique carried by Ndjamena radio claimed that 274 enemy soldiers defected to the Chadian Army during the capture of Faya-Largeau and 16 Libyans were taken prisoner. Weapons captured by the Chadian Army included 11 T-55 tanks and over 100 other vehicles, the communique reported.

"Russian experts were involved in the Libyan aggression," Chadian President Hissein Habre stated in an interview with the FRG's *Der Spiegel*. Habre said Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi overestimated himself in Chad because he has Soviet weapons.

Regarding the Libyan presence in Sudan, SUNA reported Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told the Sudanese parliament that Libyan forces have been instructed to take orders from the Sudanese military, who will oversee their evacuation. Al-Mahdi said the Libyans were given a week to leave the country, noting that Sudanese Armed Forces "have contained the situation."

Lebanon

Hostages — Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri told the wives of four kidnapped Beirut University College lecturers that the kidnappers are now in an "embarrassing" situation as they want to set the hostages free, Beirut radio reported. Birri denied PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's accusation that Amal was behind the kidnapping, stressing that Amal "does not kidnap people," and he claimed that 'Arafat's security service knows who the real kidnappers are. Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an also denied 'Arafat's accusations that his intelligence men are holding the the four hostages, the radio noted.

In other comments on the hostage issue, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah told the UAE's *Al-Khalij* that the time is not ripe for a solution, QNA reported. Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi stressed that the issue can only be solved through negotiations between Iran and the western countries concerned, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Syrian Summit Conditions — The Lebanese presidential delegation that visited Damascus recently was informed that Syria cannot fix a date for a summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil until the latter reaches agreement with the Muslim ministers on the issues of reform, national accord, and relations with Syria, the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* stated in a report cited by WAKH.

Iran

Relations With Syria — Lebanon's Central News Agency reported that Syria has withdrawn 200 military advisers from Iran, according to Radio Free Lebanon. The Syrian advisers were reportedly attached to armored and air force units in Ahvaz and Dezful.

Party Leader's Arrest — Mozaffar Baqa'i Kermani, leader of the outlawed Toilers Party was arrested last week, an "informed source" disclosed in a statement cited by IRNA 31 March.

Israel and the USSR

A major change in Soviet policy toward Jews appears to be imminent, Jerusalem radio announced in a 31 March report on recent talks in Moscow between Soviet officials and representatives of world Jewish organizations. U.S. Jewish official Morris Abram told the radio that the Soviets indicated their intention to establish emigration channels through Romania and to allow "substantially all" refuseniks and their families to leave for Israel "within the year" except for those cases in which national security claims may legitimately be made.

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'Arafat Receives Soviet Message on Camps

JN310656 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis,30 Mar (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received a message from the Soviet leadership, the second in 72 hours.

The *Palestinian News Agency*, WAFA, said tonight that the message, which it described as important, deals with the Soviet leadership's efforts to help end the fighting around the Palestinian camps in Beirut and help those living inside them. It also covered the Soviet Union's efforts in this regard with the parties concerned, both in Syria and Lebanon.

The message was conveyed by the Soviet ambassador to Iraq during a meeting with 'Arafat in Baghdad today.

'Aziz, 'Arafat Discuss Arab League Meeting

JN281934 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here this evening. They discussed the current situation in the Palestinian arena and the preparations for the Arab League Council meeting scheduled to be held in Tunis at the beginning of April.

'Aziz affirmed Iraq's firm stand in support of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative. The meeting was also attended by Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and minister of interior; the deputy director of the RCC's Arab liberation movements office; the under secretary of the Ministry of the Interior; Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan, official PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians on Land Day

JN301154 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1830 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, marking Land Day; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] My people, brothers, and beloved ones in the precious Palestinian homeland; my steadfast people and beloved fighters in the camps of dignity and heroism in Lebanon; sons of our struggler Palestinian people everywhere: An anniversary that is most glorious and dear to our hearts hails these days. It is the 11th anniversary of Land Day; this immortal day in our Palestinian national history; the day that shone with the pure innocent blood of our martyrs as an expression of our loyalty to our homeland, our attachment to our soil, our loyalty to our strong deep roots in our beloved land, Palestine; our noble heritage in this holy place, and our preservation of our generations' right that Palestine — the land of Prophet Muhammad's night journey and ascension to heaven and Christ's cradle — shall remain our eternal homeland. Your strong will, o sons of our people, has made this anniversary the symbol of our people's unity at home and abroad and a renewable pledge of your solidarity with your revolution and the PLO, our people's political and moral entity and of your national and struggling identity. Your strong will has also succeeded in establishing this anniversary — the anniversary of Land Day — as a renewable pledge to continue the struggle against this Zionist onslaught with all the aggressive objectives it carries and all its practices of occupation, colonialism, terrorism, tyranny, coercion, bigotry, murder, plunder, Judaization, and racist hatred, with the absolute backing of world imperialism headed by the United States and all the centers of aggression in this world against our people and Arab nation.

This glorious anniversary greets this year, while it has acquired new meanings and additional dimensions through the decision made by the international community in all its international and regional organizations to make this year the year of Palestine — the year of solidarity with the Palestinian people in their heroic struggle for the sake of their just cause and for regaining their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state and its capital Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Palestine. This decision is further categorical proof of the great support enjoyed by our just cause on the international level, thanks to our people's perseverance, heroic struggle, and great sacrifices, as well as the creativity of the great generations and the heroes of the stones, who interact with the heroes of the RPG's in creative revolutionary harmony in this popular struggling march and through these sweeping popular uprisings and brave resistance depending on the broad genuine popular unity of our people in our homeland and in the diaspora, especially in the steadfast heroic camps, which portray our steadfastness and write our history in letters of light and fire and establish us as a fact on the political map of the Arab world. The Palestinians have become the difficult figure in the Middle East equation. The PLO, the leader of our people's struggle, which depends on these noble enlightened masses and this vast struggle heritage, cannot be contained or sidestepped by anyone.

There will be no peace in the region without Palestinian peace. There will be no security or stability in the region without the security and stability of the Palestinian people on their free land and through their free will.

In view of all these accomplishments and victories and the notable position of your revolution and cause, the plotting by the enemies and their agents increases, and new dimensions of the plot are exposed. In fact, the alliance of the enemies is forced to show its face and agents more and more. In the face of this legendary steadfastness and miraculous heroism by our masses inside and outside the occupied territory, the plots are foiled one after the other. This has prompted the enemy to unmask those who for years have been tampering with our Arab nation's most sacred cause under false slogans.

What is happening today on the front of war and aggression against our camps is one of the most serious links of the plot whose aim is to wrest the Palestinian weapon from the hand of the Palestinian fighter — from the hand of the Palestinian defender — and then grab the entire Palestinian existence itself. The rabid sectarian regime in Damascus is backing the Amal Movement's gangs in Beirut and in Lebanon at a time when the

Zionist enemy is publicly backing these spiteful gangs' double siege of our camps in Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah as well as in Rashidiyah, Tyre, and Sidon. It is the siege of shells and sniper fire; the siege of hunger and thirst and blockade of medicine for the wounded. It is the siege of black death pursuing all of our women and children in the camps of steadfastness and pride. By this siege some agents try to decorate themselves with fake medals made up of the skulls of our children after they had failed to obtain them in fighting the enemy or in the military confrontation with our steadfast heroes who are defending their kinfolk, camps, and homeland.

O my brothers, beloved ones, and all kinfolk in the homeland, in the countries of residence, and in the diaspora: Our brothers and beloved ones in these steadfast camps have accomplished legendary epics of heroism in the face of the siege, aggression, and starvation. Your fighting sons defending these camps have also performed indescribable epics of heroism, sacrifice, and valor. This heroic steadfastness and legendary defense broke the links of the plot and made them fall one after the other, thus uncovering all the agents who sold themselves to our nation's enemies to obtain a national, pan-Arab, religious, or human cover for themselves. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

What is more important than all this, brethren, is that in the face of this stifling, double siege and in the heat of these grinding battles — a very fight for life — our people's sons and our fighters in these valiant camps managed to demonstrate the greatest national unity and creative revolutionary cohesion. They are fighting under one flag and one will, the flag of the PLO and the will of our steadfast people, with great faith filling their hearts just as our steadfast people in Galilee, the Triangle, the Negev, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip did. These people, too, have splendidly given the greatest and strongest picture of national unity in defending the Zionist occupation, the gangs of Kahane, Leveninger, and Sharon, and the Zionist occupation army with their bare hands, defying their tanks, bullets, and all terrorism and repression through a gigantic popular uprising that entrenched these basic political and militant facts in the melting pot of the Middle East conflict. All this formed the most splendid pictures of the national affiliation of our people in the occupied territory, in the camps in Lebanon, and everywhere in the diaspora.

Based on this continuing genuine spirit, o brothers and beloved ones, and on the spirit of the one people and the comprehensive popular unity, we proceeded toward bolstering this national unity around the PLO, the leader of our people's struggle and the expresser of our national, militant, and political entity. To you, my beloved ones, all my beloved ones, to you, my kinfolk, all my kinfolk, you whose hearts abound with faith and the will of challenge, I convey the pledge of men to men, the pledge of free people to free people, the pledge of revolutionaries to revolutionaries. I press hard on your hands, you, who are patient over the embers of fire. I press hard on the hand of every man, woman, child, elderly person, and every young boy and girl on this day and on this occasion, which is glorious for our steadfast people in our beloved land of Palestine. It is the anniversary of land, loyalty, sacrifice, and commitment; the anniversary of challenge, steadfastness, loftiness, and pride that are as deep as our Palestinian Arab soil, which will remain Arab, Arab, Arab.

Glory to our beloved country Palestine. Immortality to our righteous martyrs. Definite victory to our great struggling people. Together and side by side, brethren, until victory and until our banners flutter high over Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, the capital of our free, independent Palestine.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God made it but a message of hope, and an assurance to your hearts: In any case here is no help except from God: And God is exalted in power, wise. [Koranic verse]

Your Brother: Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

Khalil al-Wazir Meets Al-Qadhdhafi 29 March

LD301834 Kuwait KUNA in English 1635 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis, March 30 (KUNA) — Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday met with deputy general commander of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces Khalil al-Wazir, the *Palestine News Agency*, WAFA, reported today.

WAFA said that the discussions tackled Palestinian developments, situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Libyan efforts to strengthen unity of various factions of the Palestine revolution.

Al-Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, expressed appreciation of the Palestinian leadership for Col al-Qadhdhafi's continuous and intensified efforts to push forward unity of national Palestinian action under the banner of the PLO, sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Libya, Algeria and Tunisia have been scenes of inter-Palestinian dialogues aimed at removing obstacles from the way of Palestinian unity.

Such talks (?have so) far resulted in approval of major Palestinian factions to attend the comprehensive dialogue slated for April 10 in Algeria and the Palestine National Council session scheduled to take place in Algeria April 20.

Qaddumi Interviewed on Palestinian Issues

JN271640 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Mar 87 p 15

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Lutf, by Basimah Nafadi — date and place not given]

[Text] *Al-Ittihad*: Could you tell us about your recent contacts with EEC member-states? Was the Brussels statement a result of these meetings?

Abu al-Lutf: Most of my contacts were with West European states. The first of these was Belgium, where we met with the foreign minister, Leo Tindemans. We discussed — in his capacity as EC chairman, a post he has held since January — the need to reconsider the Venice Declaration and to further explain its phrasing. This visit was the beginning of contacts held before the EC meeting, so the Middle East issue as a whole could be presented to that session. We believe it is now appropriate for Europe to take an initiative on this and to exert pressure in all directions to intensify international efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Our trip to Italy was characterized by detailed discussions on what the European states can do about the Middle East crisis. We also discussed the Amal forces' siege of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the possibility of providing these camps with food and medical supplies, and the application of political pressure to lift the siege. There is no doubt that the talks dealt with the possibility of Europe playing an important role here. The recent Brussels statement has reaffirmed the European policy expressed in the June 1980 Venice Declaration. Clearly, the European states and peoples began to show more sympathy for the Palestinian people once they sensed the suffering in the occupied territories and in Lebanon's Palestinian camps. They began to appreciate this Palestinian steadfastness and struggle to get rid of the Israeli occupation and guarantee Palestinian national rights, particularly that of self-determination.

Al-Ittihad: Observers believe the Brussels statement was a step back from the Venice Declaration, for it did not mention the PLO by name although it referred to the Venice Declaration. What is your opinion?

Abu al-Lutf: I believe the Brussels statement and the Venice Declaration did not differ. Both clearly referred to the participation of all parties concerned. When Europe says "the parties concerned," this means that the PLO is a principal party. I would like to say that the Venice Declaration referred to the PLO's participation, while the Brussels statement says the participation of all parties concerned. I believe there has been a step forward; after all, most European states now believe that the Palestine question and the Middle East problem cannot be solved without the PLO's basic participation in international efforts to secure a just and lasting peace.

Al-Ittihad: You have talked about the people's steadfastness in the occupied territories. Did you discuss EEC aid to the kinfolk in the occupied territories?

Abu al-Lutf: The EEC has decided to support the products of occupied Palestine and has given them some preferential treatment. Moreover, the projects the European countries intend to carry out will be implemented through the elected bodies, as well as through the Palestinian people and institutions there, with the PLO's knowledge and not in accordance with another plan drawn up by others. This decision was made as a result of the European countries' desire to develop the occupied territories. They emphasized to us that this will not be an alternative to a political solution that would eliminate the occupation of Palestinian land.

Al-Ittihad: Did you discuss the subject of a preparatory committee for the international conference with the Europeans?

Abu al-Lutf: Our talks dealt with the preparatory committee, and the European countries are discussing all international initiatives. However, they have not made a unanimous decision regarding them. There are individual decisions made separately by each country.

Al-Ittihad: Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has said more than once that the PLO recognizes all UN resolutions. This implicitly means that it also recognizes UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. So why are there differences on these two resolutions?

Abu al-Lutf: The PLO statements clearly show that the basis for holding an international conference are the UN resolutions on the Palestine question and the Middle East. The issue is not that of recognizing or not recognizing this or that resolution, but of UN resolutions on the Palestine question and the Middle East being the basis for an international conference in which the PLO should participate.

Al-Ittihad: Do you not think that negotiations through an international conference could take many years, or that the conference would convene and end without accomplishing anything as happened at Geneva in 1974?

Abu al-Lutf: We do not rely completely on an international conference. The Palestinian rifle is the major factor that develops all political situations, and the continuation of the armed struggle is a basic element in reaching a political solution to the Middle East crisis. Therefore, we should use all political and diplomatic means, including the armed struggle, to develop the situation in the Middle East region and to gain international support for the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights.

Al-Ittihad: Reports said that you will visit Moscow and Libya. Is there anything new here, particularly regarding Moscow, which President Hafiz al-Asad will visit after postponing his trip for some time?

Abu al-Lutf: The date of our visit to Moscow has not yet been set. However, we will visit Switzerland and some European and Latin American states. Moreover, we maintain direct contact with the Soviet comrades regarding all developments and issues in the region. As for Libya, we can visit it at any time, and Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] will visit Libya in the near future.

Al-Ittihad: Can you explain to us the progress made by the Palestinian national dialogue to hold another PNC session?

Abu al-Lutf: The Palestinian national dialogue has borne fruit among the Palestinian revolution factions after the bloody incidents in the camps. Most of the Palestinian forces are now convinced that the PNC should be convened as soon as possible. I believe this will happen before the end of the year. The Palestinian national dialogue has made great progress and gained the support of the Palestinian people. It is now certain that the PNC meet. The camps war hampered this dialogue, particularly the efforts to lift the siege of the camps, to reach a cease-fire agreement, and to solve the camps' supply, medical, and security problems.

Al-Ittihad: Is there any common ground for restoring relations with Syria, especially since Syria plays a certain role in the region and is a major party to the Middle East crisis?

Abu al-Lutf: Yes, there is common ground. However, all sides should adhere to this common ground. We in the PLO do so, and we hope the others will follow our example.

Al-Ittihad: Have there been any new Palestinian-Israeli meetings, especially since there are reports of three meetings similar to the one in Bucharest? Is it true that one will be chaired by Brother Abu 'Ammar?

Abu Al-Lutf: I have no knowledge of any future meetings. However, the session in Bucharest was held with Jewish forces that came from Israel as a challenge to the Knesset decision banning contacts with Palestinian officials. In other words, the Knesset refused to recognize the PLO and the Palestinian people's national rights. So these democratic and progressive forces came from Israel to express their solidarity with the Palestinian people and their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, thus challenging the Israeli decision and extremism. The PNC resolution, however, allows meetings with democratic and progressive forces inside and outside the occupied territories.

Al-Ittihad: Can the revival of the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee be considered a barometer of healthier relations between the PLO and Jordan?

Abu al-Lutf: The revival of the joint committee meetings confirms the Palestinian position that our people in the occupied territories can never respond positively to the Jordanian development plan, as the PLO is their sole legitimate representative and consequently, everything must go through it. Due to our bonds with the Jordanian people and because of our common interests, we and the Jordanians must work together through the joint committee. That body was set up at the Arab summit in Baghdad to bolster our people's steadfastness inside the occupied territories.

The problem that has to be dealt with is the occupation of Palestinian and Arab land. We are working to end this occupation. No Arab or friend should allow himself to believe that the development of the occupied territories or the economic factor could be a substitute for ending the occupation. I do not believe that the revival of the committee meetings constitutes a great stride in Palestinian-Jordanian relations. Basically, Palestinian-Jordanian relations are special, and no official, ruler, or state can negatively affect them. The Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are one people, who have been going through a unionist experience. Palestinians still hold Jordanian passports, and they are enjoying acquired rights. We approved this principle at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo in 1975. Hence, we are eager to preserve these distinguished relations despite the negative consequences of Jordan's behavior and its actions.

However, it must be understood that the revival of joint committee meetings marks the start of a new chapter that supersedes all previous ones, and that the joint committee is nothing more than a body that performs tasks and duties designed to support our people's steadfastness in the occupied territories. We are cooperating with our brothers in Jordan only to secure this support and not for any other reason. This cooperation is not subject to expansion. If you are referring to political coordination, I want to tell you that we prefer to coordinate with all Arabs through collective Arab action, as experience has taught us that this policy is better that anything bilateral, which has become a thing of the past.

Al-Ittihad: Are you referring to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord known as the Amman Agreement?

Abu al-Lutf: Bullets are not used in political action; they are used in combat. However, the Amman Agreement has outlived its usefulness, and there is no return to unsuccessful methods.

Al-Ittihad: What about rapprochement and relations with Egypt?

Abu al-Lutf: We look at Egypt as a great Arab country that is one day inevitably bound to rid itself of the shackles of Camp David. This is an important and essential issue. We are confident that Egypt, with its people, Army, and patriotic officials, will break these fetters. Therefore, through this direct contact with Egypt's people, its patriotic officials, and its military forces, we are eager to help Egypt rid itself of the shackles that were either directly or indirectly imposed on it by the Camp David accords. I believe the Egyptian people feel that there is a temporary peace and not a genuine one.

Al-Ittihad: My last question concerns your visit to Switzerland and its goal.

Abu al-Lutf: This visit to Switzerland will enable me to meet with the president of the Swiss Confederation. I will also make a statement before the UN Human Rights Commission, which is meeting in Geneva.

BAHRAIN

'Umar Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Amir

JN301102 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0933 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, 30 Mar (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, today received Dr Muftah al-Ustah 'Umar, secretary general of the Libyan People's Congress, who is currently visiting Manama.

During the meeting, the Libyan official conveyed to his highness the amir of Bahrain a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, dealing with bilateral relations, the current developments in the region, and the latest developments in the Chad issue.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister, and Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, minister of labor and social affairs.

Libyan Visitor Departs

JN301906 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, 30 Mar (WAKH) — Dr Muftah al-Ustah 'Umar, secretary general of the Libyan People's Congress, left Manama for Doha this evening following a 2-day visit to Bahrain within a tour of a number of countries in the region. During this visit Dr 'Umar conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi. The message deals with bilateral relations and current developments in the Arab region in addition to current developments in chad.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Envoy

LD301314 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Mar — Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received at his office in the Foreign Ministry Mahmud Lavasani, director of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, who is on a visit to Kuwait as an emissary of the Iranian leadership.

A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry source told journalists that during the meeting Lavasani conveyed to Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah an oral message from the Iranian leadership to the Amir of Kuwait and that, in the light of the message, issues pertaining to the Islamic world were discussed, with "both sides expressing their viewpoints on these matters."

Iranian 'Anxiety' Voiced

NC310603 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Mr Lavasani, director general for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Kuwait to convey to that country the anxiety of Iranian officials on the condition of Muslims in Kuwait, has met with Shaykh Sabah al Ahmad al Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and the foreign minister. The officials had a 2-hour meeting. According to the Central News Unit, during the course of this meeting Mr Lavasani stressed our country's concern about the problems of the Islamic world and the priority it gives to supporting the oppressed and Muslims within the infrastructure of the firm principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: It is our hope that, after the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war and the deliverance of the region from the blight of the aggressive Iraqi regime, the Muslims of the area will be able to lead harmonious and tranquil lives, free of pressure. In view of the attitude in Kuwait toward Muslims, this hope seems, however, rather dim. In view of our dedication to and Islamic bonds with the Kuwaiti Muslims, we are apprehensive in this regard. Mr Lavasani added: Coercion of Muslims in Kuwait will be a source of provocation to other Muslims, and the Iranian nation's sympathy with other Muslim brothers binds us.

Responding to Mr Lavasani, Shaykh al-Sabah welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation and stressed the need for unity.

Foreign Minister Meets With YAR Counterpart

LD292218 Kuwait KUNA in English 1746 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, March 29 (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti-Yemeni meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry Sunday afternoon headed by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic Dr. 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani who arrived here earlier today.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Director of the Minister's Office 'Abdallah Sa'ud 'Abd al-Razzak, head of the Arab affairs at the Political Department Faysal al-Mesha'an and the Yemeni Ambassador to Kuwait Muhammad Sa'id Al-Hakimi.

KUNA learnt that the two sides have discussed bilateral relations, arab developments and issues of joint interest.

KUNA also learnt that Dr. Al-'Irayni has expressed his country's deep appreciation for the efforts Kuwait is exerting for the return of refugees in North Yemen to their country (South Yemen).

Thousands of citizens from Democratic Republic of Yemen have left for Yemen Arab Republic following the events of January 1986 in Aden.

Amir Receives YAR Message

LD301249 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1008 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 30 Mar (KUNA) — Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today received a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The contents of the message have not been revealed. The message was delivered to the Amir by 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived here yesterday on an official visit to Kuwait.

It should be recalled that Kuwait has been using its good offices between the two parts of Yemen with a view to the repatriation of thousands of South Yemeni citizens who came to North Yemen following the struggle for power that took place in the PDRY last January, and ended with the fall of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who currently lives in the YAR. [passage omitted]

Al-'Iryani Ends Visit

LD301829 Kuwait KUNA in English 1744 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, March 30 (KUNA) — Yemen Arab Republic Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani left today for Iraq after a two-day visit to Kuwait.

Al-'Iryani conveyed a message to H.H. the amir from President of Yemen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The Yemeni official's talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad tackled bilateral relations and coordinating efforts toward problems which face the Arab nation.

He was seen off by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, the ambassadors of Yemen and Iraq and 'Abd al-Karim bu Ghaith [name as received] from protocol department.

PDRY

USSR's Talyzin, Economic Delegation Arrive

EA282341 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Politburo, deputy premier, and chairman of the State Planning Committee, arrived in Aden this evening at the head of a Soviet economic delegation for a visit to our country that will last several days. During this visit the delegation will hold talks with party and state officials on ways of strengthening and developing the friendship and cooperation between our country and the friendly USSR in various fields and on matters of common interest.

The delegation was received at the airport by Brother Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister and interior minister; a number of brother officials, and Comrade Albert Rachkov, member of the [CPSU] Central Committee and Soviet ambassador in Aden.

Officials Discuss Economic Ties in Moscow 24 Mar

EA261601 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Aspects of cooperation between our country and the USSR were discussed yesterday morning in Moscow in light of the results of the brother secretary general's visit to Moscow in February. This took place during a meeting between Dr Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Ilah, member of the Central Committee and our ambassador to the USSR, and Comrade Katushev, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The meeting also reviewed the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Permanent Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation that will be held in May. The brother ambassador emphasized the importance of consolidating and deepening cooperation between the two countries for the development of our national economy and in a manner that responds to the material and spiritual needs of the masses of our people. Comrade Katushev pointed out the USSR's concern for development in our country, and he emphasized the readiness of the USSR to provide support in different spheres.

The meeting was attended by Comrade (Gorbachen), deputy chairman of the State Committee for Economic Affairs and chairman of the Soviet side in the joint committee between the two countries.

Al-'Attas Returns From UAE, Qatar, Bahrain Trip

EA281736 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Aden at noon today after concluding official visits to the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain that lasted several days. [passage omitted]

On his arrival at Aden Airport, Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas made a statement to QNA in which he said: We paid official visits this week to the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain in response to invitations from our brothers, the leaders of these sisterly countries to which our country is linked by close brotherly ties and common interests. We can say that our visits to these countries, which come as an extension to the official visits we paid last year to sisterly Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have given the march of brotherly relations between our country and the neighboring countries a new and strong impetus toward reinforcing the bonds of brotherly cooperation based on mutual respect, good-neighborliness and noninterference in internal affairs in a manner that contributes toward consolidating the pillars of security, stability, and prosperity in our region.

During our visits to the sisterly countries and our discussions with H.H. Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan, UAE president; and H.H. Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Bahrain [country as heard], we were afforded the opportunity of discussing aspects of bilateral cooperation between our country and these countries and reviewing developments in the Arab and international arenas in the light of the escalation of the aggressive imperialist and Zionist challenges, which threaten the peoples of our Arab nation, and the increased dangers that threaten security and safety in the arab region and the entire world.

We feel very pleased with the results of these discussions, which confirmed a joint eagerness for the need to continue developing brotherly relations and strengthening the close cooperation and understanding between our countries. We expect the coming period to witness more tangible cooperation between our country and the neighboring countries in various fields in order to serve the common interests of all the peoples of our region.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and the delegation accompanying him left the state of Bahrain this morning after an official visit that lasted several days in response to an invitation from H.H. Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the state. Brother Al-'Attas was accorded a large official send-off. [passage omitted]

QNA: Al-Dali Views Visits

JN261015 Doha QNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Doha, 26 Mar (QNA) — PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali has said the Qatari-PDRY talks resulted in an agreement to promote cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He indicated that the forthcoming phase will witness this cooperation, particularly in the economic and political fields.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper *Al-'Arab* published today, Dr al-Dali expressed satisfaction with the results achieved following PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas' visits to Qatar and the UAE. Dr al-Dali explained that the PDRY talks in both countries dealt with the possibility of convening the postponed Arab summit as soon as possible in view of the situation in the Arab arena due to the Zionist onslaught. The PDRY minister asserted that his country's current policy focuses on promoting and bolstering its relations with all Arab countries with the aim of achieving tangible solidarity among them. In this regard, he pointed out that Chairman al-'Attas will tour a number of Arab countries in the near future to emphasize the need for entrenching Arab solidarity.

No Sudanese Mediation With 'Ali Nasir Muhammad

JN302112 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Khartoum — In a statement to *Al-Ittihad*, His Excellency PDRY Ambassador in Khartoum 'Abdallah al-Bujayri has denied the existence of any Sudanese mediation between the PDRY Government and former PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. Al-Bujayri said: We will not accept any initiative from any party whatsoever in this regard.

An official spokesman at the YAR Embassy in Khartoum in a statement to *Al-Ittihad* has also denied knowledge of any initiative or contact in this respect. Press reports had indicated that the Sudanese Government held contacts in this regard led by Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister.

YAR

Al-Iryani Departs for Kuwait, Iraq With Messages

JN291836 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, left for Kuwait this morning to begin a tour during which he will visit Iraq in addition to Kuwait. In a statement to SABA Dr al-iryani explained that this visit is part of the cooperation, coordination, and consultations between Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his brothers the Arab leaders to achieve Arab solidarity and unify Arab ranks with the aim of confronting all attacks and plots against the Arab nation.

Concluding his statement, Dr al-Iryani indicated that during his tour he will convey two messages from Col 'Ali 'Abdallh Salih to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al- Sabah, the Kuwaiti amir, and His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Libyan Helicopter Moved to Air Base Near Cairo

NC302024 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) — The Libyan military Chinook helicopter, which had been given permission to enter Egyptian airspace and land at an airport in the Western area yesterday, was transferred to an air base near Cairo today. Its crew members, Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa al-Tahir, First Lieutenant al-Sa'id Muhammad al-'Amruki, and technician NCO Jamal Su'ad Khalifah, have requested political asylum in Egypt and the appropriate authorities are now studying this request. It is worth noting that this helicopter, which bears the number LSO-15, is the second Libyan military aircraft to land in Egypt and request political asylum. The crew of a C-130 military transport requested asylum in Egypt earlier this month.

Papers View Libyan Leader's Chad Defeats

AL-AHRAM on 'Foolish Acts'

NC272324 Cairo MENA in English 2103 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — *Al-Ahram* newspaper said Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has brought upon himself these crushing defeats in Chad and wondered if he could escape the wrath of his people.

The text of the editorial in the paper's issue of tomorrow follows:

It is clear that Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya has drawn itself into an ambush in Chad. It has suffered a series of setbacks which the staunchest Al-Qadhdhafist cannot deny.

What is happening in Chad is the outcome of a set of foolish Al-Qadhdhafi acts. They began with false pride and ended with a screaming appeal. Al-Qadhdhafi entered Chad with the claim of protecting the northerners from the southerners. But deep down he was motivated by ambition for a sphere of influence after finding no such sphere in Egypt, the Sudan, or other neighbours in the north.

Al-Qadhdhafi entered Chad with the intention of staying there. At first he was able to deceive the then government of Goukouni Oueddi that he was its ally. He captured Ouzou area adjacent to his country's southern border, an area which probably has uranium and other mineral deposits. From there he spread out militarily into northern Chad.

Afterwards, however, his ambitions became obvious even to his Oueddi allies, who then deserted him out of nationalist sentiment and rallied around the legitimate Chadian Government, and Al-Qadhdhafi's defeats began.

In 1984 Al-Qadhdhafi promised France to withdraw if it did, but he did not honour his pledge. All elements united against him because of his betrayal, not because of the desire to defeat him. His claim that he had come to reconcile between the Chadian forces had been reconciled. [sentence as received]

Now in the ordeal he has brought upon himself, he has begun to withdraw, appealing to the United Nations to find him a face-saving exit. But even if this comes true, where can he go from the anger of his people, whose youth he has killed, whose arms he has wasted, and whose wealth he has squandered in a war that had no cause except to impose his personal leadership.

'Military Arrogance' Viewed

NC301544 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Mar 87

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "Despite the Defeat, Al-Qadhdhafi Has Not Come to His Senses"]

[Excerpts] There are indications that the small minority of observers who had expected that the bitter defeat in Chad would return the Libyan ruler Al-Qadhdhafi to his senses have been disappointed. It is now clear that the man who ordered his men to withdraw from the Faya-Largeau base and let it fall to the Chadian forces, the real owners of the land, without fighting, did not do so because he came to his senses following his defeat at Ouadi Doum, a defeat that cost the fraternal Libyan people, and not the colonel, well over 2,500 dead and taken prisoner. Rather, Al-Qadhdhafi withdrew his troops from Faya-Largeau because he did not want them to be annihilated after the fall at Ouadi Doum closed his supply routes. In other words, he did not want these forces to be annihilated because he wanted to continue his unsuccessful adventures in Chad, not because he felt any concern for the lives of the Libyan people.

What clinches the disappointment of those who expected that the Libyan withdrawal from Faya-Largeau would be a prelude to a final withdrawal from Chad is the folly of embroiling Sudan in the Chadian war, despite its rejection of any such participation. Had Al-Qadhdhafi learned his lesson when the situation in Chad turned against him, he would not have needed to enmesh himself in another front in Sudan, as the Sudanese paper *Al-Ayyam* put it. [passage omitted]

Naturally, no one can overlook the fact that Libyan forces have occupied the western part of Sudan to use it as springboard to Chad. Neither the Sudanese, nor the regional and international powers interested in Sudan's stability and disturbed by Al-Qadhdhafi's adventure will allow this occupation. In addition to the aforesaid indications that Al-Qadhdhafi has not come to his senses is the fact that the man who almost completely lost the Chadian war in less than 10 days after a 10-year intervention emerged from successive defeats to declare that the war would not stop until the Chadian rebel leaders agreed with his return to Chad.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that he does not know that the Libyan Army has not yet taken part in the Chadian War. [sentence as heard] He then threatened that he could send 80,000 men to liberate what he termed all French colonies in Africa. We do not want to comment on Al-Qadhdhafi's strange accusation that the African countries rejecting his hegemony are French colonies. In addition, we will not ask who gave him the right to claim to be the liberator of Africa. We will, however, pause a while to examine this false military arrogance. Whether Al-Qadhdhafi touts this military arrogance amid abominable defeats because of his need to boast or because of his illusions, the result is the same. He is ready to continue the war until the last Libyan is annihilated. He forgets that the Libyan people, no matter how they appear to give in to tyranny, are not a flock of sheep. The Libyan people, and their sons in the army, are aware that the war in Chad is unjustifiable and, consequently, our Libyan brothers are not ready to die to the last man for Al-Qadhdhafi's braggadocio or illusions. The resentment now prevailing among the Libyan people and their army is an indication of this. Another indication of discontent in Libya [words indistinct] Libyan officers to Egypt.

Al-Qadhdhafi's bragging and false dreams will not obliterate the fact that he has lost the Chadian war. Either he accepts this fact and behaves accordingly — that is, quits — or he persists in his obduracy until the Chadians abroad and the Libyans at home write the final chapter to his adventures, which have squandered a great deal of the Arab and African resources in vain.

USSR Economists To Sign Joint Protocol Next Sep

NC301520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) — MENA has learned that during their recent talks Egypt and the USSR agreed to increase the volume of trade specified in the protocol between them to a total of 1 billion sterling accounting pounds. The volume of the current protocol amounts to 600 million sterling accounting pounds.

According to an official source, a Soviet economic delegation is scheduled to come to Cairo next September to sign this protocol and to reach an agreement on the goods to be included in it.

During the recent talks in Moscow, attended by an Egyptian economic delegation led by Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa, it was agreed to increase Egypt's exports to the USSR over its imports in order to cover the payments and interest accrued on Egypt's financial debts to the Soviet Union. These debts are the result of loans supplied in accordance with bilateral economic cooperation agreements.

MENA has also learned that Egypt's outstanding civilian debts are approximately 50 million sterling accounting pounds, an amount which will be paid in annual installments by 1992. During the 1958-1971 period, Egypt received approximately 1 billion rubles in the form of loans to establish industrial projects and to buy replacement machinery. Eighty percent of these loans have been used.

Most of the agreements stipulate payment in equal installments, beginning 1 year after receipt of the equipment involved. The annual interest rate is 2.5 percent.

A member of the Egyptian delegation to the recent talks in Moscow has pointed out that there was a mutual desire to promote trade and economic cooperation. The last round of talks focused on ways to encourage Egyptian exports and to resume bilateral economic cooperation in order to replace or to renovate the projects the USSR had helped to establish.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Arrives For Visit

NC291441 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 5-day official visit to Egypt, during which he will be received by President Mubarak. The Sri Lankan prime minister was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC300918 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa at the Presidency in Heliopolis this morning. Also attending the meeting were Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; Ibrahim 'Awf, Egyptian ambassador to Sri Lanka; and Desanayaka, Sri Lankan ambassador to Cairo.

Views Mubarak Meeting

NC301147 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) — Following his meeting with President Mubarak today, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa described the meeting as an important one, noting that they had held cordial and brotherly discussions on various international issues.

The Sri Lankan prime minister added that the meeting also dealt with the need to end poverty, noting that the president agreed with him that funds being invested to manufacture weapons that claim lives must be used instead to promote human life. [passage omitted]

The Sri lankan prime minister added that he had also met with Prime Minister 'Ati Sidqi, discussing other issues related to bilateral cooperation. He noted that officials of both countries plan to discuss in detail ways to bolster bilateral cooperation and communications.

Asked about the possibilities for bolstering cooperation, Premadasa said that cooperation between the two countries is very strong and that his current visit is aimed at strengthening relations.

Regarding the political issues discussed during the meeting, the Sri Lankan prime minister said that his country's stand on the Middle East issue is clear and that it believes in consultations. [passage omitted]

Agreement With Sri Lanka Envisions Cooperation

NC292000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) — Egypt and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation, following a session of official talks between the two countries at the prime minister's office this evening.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Egypt by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, and for Sri Lanka by Ambassador Desanayaka, Sri Lanka's envoy in Cairo.

The agreement calls for the development and strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation. It also proposes that new opportunities be found for cooperation between specialized organizations and investment companies in the two countries, and for the establishment of economic and technical projects in various agricultural and industrial fields.

The agreement also provides for the formation of a joint committee of technicians from the two countries under the chairmanship of the ministers of international cooperation.

Mubarak Receives Message From PLO's 'Arafat

NC301627 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received a verbal message from PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat today. The message deals with the current situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the inhuman conditions prevailing there, as represented by shortages in food, water, and medicine. The message also thanks Egypt for its stand on the Palestinian issue.

The message was received by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, during his meeting with Zuhdi al-Qudrah, the Fatah Movement representative in Cairo.

Usamah Sharab, the PLO spokesman in Cairo, stated that the meeting participants discussed the situation inside the camps in detail, in light of the UNRWA's failure to introduce food, water, and medical supplies into the camps because of the inhuman shelling by the Syrian-backed Amal Movement. As a result of this, children, women, and old people are suffering from starvation and thirst and are facing death every second of the day.

They also discussed the roles of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon and the UN observers in Beirut, the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 516, the urgency of seeking an international action to lift the seige on the camps, and the need for the United Nations to bear its responsibilities in this regard.

MENA has learned that the Arab Republic of Egypt is currently making efforts at the international and bilateral levels to relieve the inhuman suffering in the Palestinian camps in Beirut.

Ghali Assesses Peace Process, Palestinian Rights

JN300956 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Mar 87 p 11

[By Muhammad Barakat]

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that the Israeli presence in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan is illegal and that Israel is called upon to immediately withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, stop building settlements, give up annexation plans, and to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

In an interview with *Al-Akhbar*, Dr Ghali said that Egypt seeks to achieve just, lasting, and comprehensive peace for all sides and that it is exerting great efforts on all levels to pave the way for the international peace conference, because it is the practical way to settle the question. He said that the PLO should participate in this conference.

Dr Ghali affirmed that Egyptian-Israeli relations have not yet moved to the phase of building peace despite the lapse of 8 years since the signing of the peace treaty.

At the beginning, I asked Dr Ghali: Now that 8 years have passed since the signing of the peace treaty, what are the bases of Egyptian moves toward Middle East peace?

The minister of state for foreign affairs said: When Egypt decided to wage the peace battle, it was determined that comprehensive peace would be the objective. The peace we are seeking is a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace — peace and security for everyone. Peace must be based on respecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, and achieving Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

In my opinion, therefore, the bases for peace are justice and security for everyone. Peace cannot be based on injustice and denying the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Peace and the peace process will impose themselves on the diehards and reason shall triumph.

Question: But the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories are not consistent with Egyptian diplomacy's efforts for peace, and they do not justify the optimism. How is Egypt facing these practices?

[Dr Ghali] This question is of great importance and depends on the momentum we can give to Egyptian-Israeli relations. Through its contacts, whether with Israel and the United States or within the framework of the United Nations and the other international groupings in which it is a member, Egypt has been doing its best to explain the gravity of the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, which seek to impose and entrench the illegal Israeli presence in the occupied territories.

In spite of the fact that 8 years have passed since the conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, Israel remains committed to a perilous policy of domination of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. I would like to emphasize that the Israeli presence in the West Bank, as in the Gaza Strip or the Golan Heights, is an illegal presence and based on force and military suppression. The Israeli practices in the occupied territories are a blatant violation of all the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and the 1949 Geneva Conventions. From this premise, Israel is called on, more than at any time before, to respect the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination. It must also suspend the establishment of settlements and the measures to obliterate Arab heritage and suppress liberties in the occupied territories. It must also put aside all annexation plans and attempts to impose Israeli law on the occupied territories.

Security requirements should not take place in favor of a party and at the expense of another in the region. When one speaks about security, it must be a comprehensive security for all the people in the region, including the Palestinian people. Israeli practices in the occupied territories will only delay the establishment of peace.

There is no doubt that some Israeli stands have placed obstacles on the road to peace and have hampered any advance toward the attainment of the objective we all seek — that of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. To overcome these obstacles, Egyptian diplomacy called for the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Question: What efforts has Egyptian diplomacy exerted to gain support for the idea of an international conference?

[Ghali] Egyptian diplomacy has exerted and continues to exert huge efforts on all levels to garner the largest support of the influential international groups. These efforts have come to fruition. The UN General Assembly issued a resolution supporting an international peace conference. This idea was also supported by the Islamic summit, which recently convened in Kuwait and in which President Mubarak participated. President Mubarak's eagerness to participate in this summit has had a great impact and has enabled Egypt to resume its vanguard role in the ICO.

The EC also issued a communique on 22 February 1987 supporting an international peace conference and reaffirming its abidance by the principles contained in the Venice Declaration. This shows that the EC is convinced that the international conference is the practical way to settle the issue in a just and comprehensive manner.

Egyptian diplomacy has played an instrumental role in the issuance of a statement by the OAU in its recent meeting in Addis Ababa supporting an international conference. The summit meeting of the OAU Bureau's member countries, which convened in Cairo this March, also issued a statement supporting an international peace conference. Thus, Egyptian diplomacy has succeeded in winning an ever-increasing support for this conference that will establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Last but not least, President Mubarak's talks with Shim'on Peres in Alexandria in September 1986 resulted in the Israeli Government officially agreeing to the idea of an international conference.

Question: Has the change of prime ministers not led to a change in the Israeli Government's stand?

[Ghali] Shim'on Peres did not commit himself in his personal capacity but on behalf of Israel. That's why any change in government cannot affect this commitment. Otherwise, we can say that the change of government affects the commitment to the peace treaty. This of course, is something no one can accept. Also, Peres was in Cairo a few weeks ago, and he reiterated this commitment in his capacity as Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Question: In spite of this and in light of the differences within the Israeli coalition government on this conference, do you believe that Israel will participate in this conference?

[Ghali] Many leaders in the Israeli establishment are convinced that the international conference will provide the opportunity to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects and with respect for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. I would like to point out here that preparations for the international conference are under way and that Egyptian diplomacy has begun to hold contacts with all the parties to translate the idea of an international conference into a tangible reality.

Question: What is the objective of the international conference?

[Ghali] The international conference is a means for the attainment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace that will safeguard the rights of all the people in the region and that will achieve security, stability, and freedom for all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. If we want to be realistic, a just solution to the Palestine problem cannot be attained in isolation of a real Palestinian participation that can tackle the serious challenges the Palestinian people are experiencing. That is why the PLO must attend this conference.

Question: What steps must the Israeli side undertake to create a propitious atmosphere for pushing peace efforts ahead?

[Ghali] Israel is dutybound to adopt a new course toward the Palestinian people. It must desist from its illegal practices in the occupied Arab territories. It must also take the necessary measures to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination.

Concluding, I asked Dr Ghali: What about Egyptian-Israeli relations 8 years after the conclusion of the peace treaty?

Dr Ghali replied: There is no doubt that the peace treaty brought about the return of the Egyptian territories that were occupied since 1967. With respect to the Palestinian problem, in spite of Egypt's unceasing efforts, we, as yet, have not achieved the progress to which we aspire, that of enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination. Therefore, I can say that relations between Egypt and Israel are still in "the stage of safeguarding peace" and have not moved to "the stage of constructing peace." Egyptian-Israeli relations can develop only if Israel translates its recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights into a tangible reality. On the other hand, the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty has produced a pattern that could be applied to the relations between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and the other Arab countries. This treaty can become a model to be copied.

'Abd al-Majid Receives Message From Iraq's 'Aziz

NC301307 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with ambassador 'Abd al-Mun'im Ghunaym, head of Egypt's interests section in Baghdad. Ghunaym conveyed to 'Abd al-Majid a message from Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's consultations with various countries, particularly UN Security Council members, aimed at finding a settlement to the Gulf war.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt firmly backs Iraq in its struggle to defend its national soil, as well as in its efforts to bring about a settlement of the conflict in accordance with international law. The Egyptian position, 'Abd al-Majid said, arises from Egypt's unwavering support for all just Arab causes.

DPRK Foreign Minister Ends Official Visit

NC300838 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) — Kim Yong-Nam, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, left Cairo early this morning following an official visit of several days.

During the visit the DPRK official discussed with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, ways to bolster bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

The talks between the two sides also dealt with arrangements for the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, which is to be held in the DPRK capital, Pyongyang, next June. The conference will discuss means of increasing cooperation among the Movement's members.

Mubarak Meets Visiting Greek Commerce Minister

NC260901 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received Greek Commerce Minister Panayiotis Roumeliotis this morning in the presence of the Greek ambassador to Egypt. The Greek minister arrived in Cairo on Sunday for a 5-day visit in response to an invitation from Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian economy and foreign trade minister.

Joint Talks Held

NC261926 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1800 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] During the talks which Commerce Minister Panayiotis Roumeliotis held with officials of the Egyptian Government, it was agreed that there would be an immediate settlement made with regard to the compensation and pensions paid to Greek workers in Egypt.

Roumeliotis was received by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today. He presented him with a personal message from Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. The Egyptian leader resonded with warm greetings to Papandreou.

Roumeliotis' talks in Egypt included an examination of the implementation of an agreement for Egypt to purchase 400,000 tons of Greek cement. An agreement was concluded for the purchase of traditional Greek tobaccos, valued at $15 million, in exchange for Egyptian products. It was also agreed that Greece would import 300,000 tons of oil through the Greek State Oil Corporation.

Maldives President Departs Cairo 28 March

NC282057 Cairo Mena in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA) — Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom left Cairo this afternoon at the conclusion of a week-long visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Maldivian president was received by President Husni Mubarak, Minister of Awqaf Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, and His Eminence Grand Imam Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, the rector of Al-Azhar. [passage omitted]

Netherlands Military Official Arrives for Talks

NC280609 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) — Peter J. Graaf, chief of staff of the Netherlands Armed Forces, arrived in Cairo this evening on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay, the Netherlands military officer will hold talks with Egyptian officials on ways to promote military cooperation between the two countries.

Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Visits Romania

For Romanian media coverage of the visit by Yusri 'Ali Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, to Romania, including his interview with Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu, please see the 31 March Eastern Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Mubarak Urges IRO To Upgrade Islam's Image

JN242044 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] Cairo — At his meeting with the members of the Executive Council of the Islamic Radios Organization [IRO], President Muhammad Husni Mubarak stated that the Gulf war has distorted Islam's image and that destruction, sabotage, terrorism, and killings are alien to Islam. He said: Had the funds that were spent on the Gulf war been used to serve the Islamic and Arab nation, our Islamic and Arab people would be enjoying progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak met with the members of the IRO Executive Council at the presidential headquarters in Misr al-Jadidah yesterday. The delegation is headed by Dr Fu'ad al-Farisi, Saudi

Information Ministry under secretary and IRO Executive Council chairman. The IRO comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Oman, the PDRY, Pakistan, Palestine, Niger, Malaysia, and the Islamic Radio Organization in Egypt. The meeting was also attended by Information Minister Sawfat al-Sharif; Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the Radio and Television Union Trustee Council; and Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chief of the Public Information Authority. [passage omitted]

Dr Sawfat al-Sharif said that the IRO Executive Council meetings discussed several issues, including the Gulf war. He added that during his meeting with the members of the Executive Council, President Mubarak gave them some directives on Islamic information. He said that the president explained that we are dutybound to seek to dispel the image of Islam's association with terrorism formed by world public opinion. The president added: We must rectify this image and use all the resources of our media to portray the true image of Islam, which is an honorable image. He said: We are also dutybound to entrench Islamic tolerance and Islam's genuine and sublime values.

President Mubarak also said the Islamic radios must assume the responsibility for advocating solidarity and discarding division. He said: Islamic radios must also work to achieve cooperation between the Arab and Islamic nations and bring their views closer together. Radio broadcasts should be civilized and should work to unite rather than divide and to call for all that will enhance our people's progress. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on Hostages, Iranian Missiles

JN291640 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1315 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, published in *Al-Thawrah* on 29 March — read by announcer]

[Text] *[Al-Thawrah]* How do you assess the state of the Iranian regime following the failure of its slogan, which termed this year the decisive one?

['Aziz] We can sum up the current situation in Iran by saying the Iranian regime faces a difficult dilemma. Year after year, the Iranian regime finds itself more entangled in a dilemma that worsens with each military defeat. The Iranian regime now faces a most puzzling dilemma. On one hand, we have the prominent military failure to achieve any of the objectives the regime set for what it called the year of decisiveness. On the other is the scandal surrounding its cooperation with Zionism and the United States. These are two failures: the first a military failure and the second a political and ethical failure. These are two noteworthy reverses that cannot be concealed and constitute a serious dilemma for the Iranian regime.

[Al-Thawrah] How will the Iranian regime extricate itself from this dilemma?

['Aziz] The Iranian regime used to make every effort to appear strong on the military level to cover up for its political and ethical failure. When at times it appeared strong politically, it took advantage of this to hide its military defeats. However, in all these instances, the Iranian regime failed to extricate itself from its dilemma; there has always been someone to help it. Let us go back to the past. When the Iranian regime became weak in 1980, only a short time after it came to power as a result of a struggle among its hirelings, an unbelievable farce occurred. The United States carried out a landing operation in the Tabas desert with the objective of liberating the U.S. hostages held captive at its embassy in Tehran. The operation failed. It had to fail, for even the most stupid soldier or intelligence officer could not believe it would succeed.

At a meeting I had with Cyrus Vance last year -- who was the U.S. secretary of state at the time -- we discussed this incident. He told me that he had been fully convinced of its failure, its stupidity. That is why he resigned. However, this operation enhanced the Iranian regime's prestige. The Iranian regime received a hero's laurels for doing nothing, and the operation was described as a divine miracle while in reality it was no more than a foolhardy action.

There is no doubt that the Zionists, who try to infiltrate the corridors of the U.S. Administration and at times the minds of its leaders, and who found in Khomeyni the answer to their longstanding dream to conspire against the Arab nation, are using every U.S. means available to them -- such as America's readiness for foolhardy actions -- to polish Khomeyni's image and consolidate his position every time he faces political or military bankruptcy. In 1981, the Iranian regime was in its worst state. It was collapsing economically, divided on the home front, and defeated in its war with Iraq. A large-scale propaganda campaign to polish Khomeyni's image began in the Zionist-controlled media. Military aid began to pour into Iran to consolidate Khomeyni's position and enable him to pursue the war against Iraq and continue to threaten the Arabs.

In 1982 and 1983, a time when oil was [words indistinct] on world markets, all parties feverishly sought to purchase Iranian oil to contribute billions of dollars to the Iranian treasury so that the Iranian regime could continue the war. This was despite the fact that Iran apparently had very bad relations worldwide and with those who purchased oil from it and permitted it to obtain hard currency.

Following the dilemma the Iranian regime experienced in the wake of its military failure in the Al-Huwayzah marshes in 1984 and 1985 — an adventure similar to Sharon's plan in the 1973 October war to cross the Suez Canal from the area of the lakes — the Zionists used their influence to arrange for a tripartite alliance among the United States, Israel, and Iran. The result of this was the Irangate scandal.

[Al-Thawrah] Can we have further details about the objectives of this alliance?

['Aziz] Following the Al-Huwayzah marshes battle in 1985, Iran's military option reached a dead end. The regime faced a dilemma and was unable to continue its aggressive plan unless it scored an important victory that would enable it to survive and continue its scheme to threaten Iraq and the Arab nation. Without such an important achievement this regime would have vanished, and Israel and Zionism, along with its supporters in U.S. and Western circles, would have lost their greatest ally in the attempt to control the region and destroy its independent forces aspiring to progress. Hence, the aforementioned alliance was formed to provide military aid to Iran, enabling it to face Iraq's superiority. Moreover, a cover or pretext was needed to get the United States strongly and directly involved. Hence, the story of the hostages emerged. The story of the hostages in Lebanon is part of the play. The major actors in the Irangate drama are the same as those in the hostage play.

The hostage game actually began following the failure of the Iranian military option in 1984 and in 1985, that is, after the failure of Iran's two Sharon operations. Iran's agents began kidnapping hostages on the streets of Beirut. One must wonder: What were these Americans, Frenchmen, and Germans doing on the unsafe streets of Beirut? Why did Americans and others stay in Beirut after the departure of the U.S., French, and British forces and the abduction of the first and second hostages? The hostage issue turned into the most discussed drama in the American and Western media. This issue also became a cudgel by which the U.S. news media, which are operated by Zionism, prey on the public's nerves and portray the situation of these hostages as the greatest tragedy facing the American people. In fact, thousands of ordinary Americans are suffering from tougher circumstances but rarely does anyone pay attention to their tragedies. In this way the requirements of the play were prepared, including the setting, the actors' movements, and the dramatic effects. All this ensured the scene would be exciting and the

American people would accept the excuse to be made for dealing with the Iranian regime to end it.

At the same time, an operation began that was designed to provoke and intimidate the Arab Gulf states; for example, the Iranians are coming; Iraq cannot face them; what is the solution? The solution does not lie in supplying the Gulf states with weapons to defend themselves, strengthening Iraq, or weakening Iran militarily and materially. Rather, the answer may be found in forcing the United States to take responsibility for the security of the Gulf states. Take Kuwait, for instance. Kuwait is a small country that has always confirmed its independence and its interest in regional stability. Kuwait requested Stinger missiles from the United States. What are these weapons like? They are very ordinary defensive weapons, and there are many similar missiles on the arms market. The United States supplied these missiles to the Afghan opposition but refused to send them to Kuwait. The Zionist lobby did not agree. Why? To prevent these weapons from falling into the hands of Palestinian terrorists. However, Israeli Prime Minister [as heard] Peres is actively working to provide all types of weapons to the country whose agents kidnap U.S. citizens in Lebanon, and commit the gravest acts of terrorism against these hostages and against the United States as a country. Peres is also actively working to provide all types of weapons to those who daily make dozens of statements calling for Israel's destruction.

As we said, this time the plan was prepared politically, militarily, and with much propaganda to give Iran the means to neutralize Iraq's superiority, occupy Basra, and place it closer to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, thus achieving Israeli-U.S. objectives. Israel would achieve its dream of establishing a sectarian, divisive entity in the largest country in the Arab east. The Arab body would begin to disintegrate, the Gulf states would fall into America's lap, and the regime of charlatans in Tehran would emerge victorious. The Iranian regime insisted on continuing the war despite heavy losses and expenses to become America's friend in confronting the Soviets. It launched its expected offensive in February 1986. The Iraqi Army swiftly destroyed the attacking Iranian forces northeast, east, and south of Basra. The Iranians succeeded only in occupying a narrow strip in the Al-Faw area, but they were unable to head for Umm Qasr to seize the whole of the southern strip.

Before waiting for the results, the Tehran rulers stated that they had become neighbors of Kuwait and sent an envoy there to inform its government of this new development. When the battle ended and its results became clear and Iranian ambitions appeared stronger than ever, the alarm bell did not ring in Washington, London, or in other capitals. In fact, secret dealings between Iran and the Western allies continued through Irangate and by diplomatic and commercial means to enable Iran to continue the war. Even after the disclosure of Iran's dealings with Israel and the United States in November 1986, the Iranian regime continued to implement the scheme, hoping to cover up its political and moral bankruptcy with military force after the exposure of its collusion with the United States and Israel against Iraq and the Arabs.

After fierce battles, which the Zionist-controlled Western media said would achieve Iran's dreams of occupying Basra, Basra continued to stand fast, Iraq remained strong, the Iranian year of decisiveness failed, and Tehran was at a most serious impasse, military failure, and political and moral bankruptcy. Something else had to be done, something new that would portray Iran as strong, challenge the United States and the West, and intimidate the Gulf states with this dominating force. In this context, the story of the Chinese missiles in the Hormuz Strait appeared.

[Al-Thawrah] Do you mean that efforts to establish this alliance are still continuing even after the scandal broke, with its accompanying uproar in the United States?

['Aziz] The objective alliance between Zionism and the Iranian regime still exists. This alliance was not affected by the disclosure of the scandal. However, in the United States, the plan of White House members Poindexter, North, and McFarlane was exposed and there was an uproar. Moreover, the Zionist influence over U.S. decisionmaking still exists and is stronger.

[Al-Thawrah] Do you not think that the deployment of these missiles constitutes a serious threat to navigation and to the interests of the Gulf and Western states that rely on the region's oil?

['Aziz] These missiles have been there for several months. During a tour of the Gulf states last winter before the beginning of the recent Iranian aggression, the Gulf states' leaders told me about these missiles and explained their specifications. We know the specifications and source of these missiles. The Iranians have used them several times to attack ships in the Gulf. However, the United States and the West did not take these missiles seriously until after the failure of the Iranian year of decisiveness. When the failure of the Iranian invasion was evident, the missiles were used as a large diversion and U.S. and Iranian officials began campaigns to draw people's attention from Irangate and Iran's political and moral bankruptcy. They sought to have them forget that the objectives of the year of decisiveness had failed, and to show charlatan Khomeyni as a force confronting imperialism in the region.

[Al-Thawrah] But how can these missiles affect navigation in the Strait of Hormuz?

['Aziz] This situation brings to mind the events of 1983, when we signed an agreement with France to lease Super-Etendard planes. At that time the Tehran rulers threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz. However, we challenged them, saying that Iran would suffer the most if the Strait of Hormuz was closed. After all, if the Gulf states were to lose a certain percentage of their trade, Iran would suffocate. And today, the story repeats itself. What is the significance of these missiles? Iran has been striking at ships in Gulf waters for several years, thus violating international law and challenging UN Security Council Resolution 552. The states shedding crocodile tears over freedom of navigation do nothing. Instead, they flatter Iran, purchase its oil, and supply it with military hardware. Iran bombed the Al-'Abdali area in Kuwait. It also hit Kuwaiti ships and continues to do so. It has hit Saudi ships and raided Saudi targets. The Saudis have downed one or two Iranian planes. A few months ago, Iran attacked an oilfield in the UAE. So Iran has threatened and is still threatening the freedom of navigation with these missiles and other weapons. However, striking at ships in the Strait of Hormuz with the objective of blocking it is a technically doubtful matter, as that passage cannot be blocked by sinking one or more tankers. And even if we assume it is possible, this would be more of an Iranian suicide mission than a threat to the Gulf states' interests and the freedom of navigation. Saudi Arabia, the largest oil exporter, has a port on the Red Sea from which it ships oil. It can also give Iranian vessels in the Red Sea the same treatment. In addition, the Suez Canal is an Arab waterway that Egypt can control if Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. However, even if we suppose that oil exports from Kuwait, the UAE, and Qatar stopped, it would not create a serious international crisis. These states have other outlets and can weather a temporary crisis. Iran is the one that will suffocate if the Strait of Hormuz is closed. Iran would then be unable to export its oil, and would face a stifling economic crisis. The whole issue is fabricated. It is an attempt to polish Iran's political image after its military failure. Moreover, it is an attempt to use the Iranian paper tiger to promote hegemonic schemes in the Gulf. This is the truth. U.S. offers to protect the ships of Gulf states came after the clamor over these missiles.

[Al-Thawrah] What is the best way to confront these plots?

['Aziz] The best step in politics is awareness. First, we should be aware that there is a strategic Iranian plan in which U.S. circles, the U.S. Administration, and others in the West actively participate to keep the Iranian threat alive. Iran continues to threaten the Arab nation with its war against Iraq and sows destruction in Lebanon. The United States is also seeking to reinforce its influence in the Gulf with the excuse of confronting this danger. America's friends, including Britain and Japan, are trying to bolster their relations with Iran and prevent any Security Council resolution forcing Tehran to stop the war or be punished. These states claim that Security Council resolutions should be realistic and balanced. This is what they told us. The second step should demonstrate a resolute Arab position to confront these plans on the basis of Arab capabilities and solidarity.

Communique Notes Fighting East of Al-Basra

JN301746 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,621 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces have inflicted further losses on the aggressive Zionist Khomeyniite regime. The following are the overall activities for last night and today:

1. With determination and faith, our courageous forces in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basra have continued to destroy enemy positions and troop concentrations with artillery and tanks, inflicting further losses on the aggressors, in addition to the following: burning and destroying 2 tanks, damaging a tank, and killing their crews; killing 25 enemy soldiers and killing 5 others in another position: burning 8 vehicles of various types, 3 of which carried personnel and equipment; destroying 2 SPG-9 guns; burning a shovel [preceding word in English] and damaging another; silencing a number of enemy guns; blowing up an ammunition dump, and destroying various types of emplacements.

2. In efficient actions, our courageous formations in the VII Army Corps sector continued their heroic confrontation of the units of the charlatans, inflicting further losses in men and materiel, in addition to the following: destroying a gunboat and killing all those aboard; destroying seven infantry positions and killing or wounding their occupants; killing five enemy personnel; destroying a shovel; destroying two observation posts, and blowing up an ammunition dump.

3. Groups of enemy personnel tried to approach positions held by one of our units in the V Army Corps northern sector. They were pounded with fire from all types of weapons and were completely annihilated.

4. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector spotted a group of enemy troops and bombarded them with artillery. A number of enemy soldiers were killed, others were wounded, and the rest fled.

5. An enemy soldier was killed, a self-propelled gun and a position were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command 30 March 1987

'Gunmen' Kidnap Cement Factory Employee

TA301613 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1520 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Ankara (AA) — Another Turkish employee has been kidnapped from the Tasluca cement factory in Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry announced that Ali Selvi, a foreman, was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen from the factory's offices at 2200 yesterday.

It said representations were made with the Iraqi authorities immediately after the incident. They were requested to find Ali Selvi at once, and to take all security measures necessary at the Tasluca plant.

The announcement said Turkish citizens employed at the factory were not hurt during the raid.

The Foreign Ministry noted that efforts are being made to rescue Ali Selvi and that the incident is being followed very closely.

Attila Celikel, an engineer at the factory, was abducted on 13 February and released last week.

The Turkish Enka Company is aiding the operations of the Tasluca cement factory.

King Husayn Begins 'Short' Trip to Baghdad

JN301848 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1750 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn left for Baghdad today on a short visit slated to last a few hours. During his stay, he will hold talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on developments in the Gulf war.

Prime Minister To Visit Washington 6-7 April

JN302025 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The *French Press Agency* has reported that Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i will pay an official visit to Washington on the 6th and 7th of April. The agency, quoting a U.S. State Department official, said Mr al-Rifa'i will have talks with American Vice President George Bush and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. According to the agency, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri will accompany Mr al-Rifa'i on the visit.

'Source' Details Agenda

JN301538 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic
26 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn agreed during their recent talks in Cairo to send Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri to Washington early next month. They are to inform the U.S. Administration of the major issues of current concern to Egypt and Jordan. A responsible Jordanian source in Washington told *Al-Ittihad* these questions include U.S. arms sales to Jordan and the problems pertaining to them, the Iranian issue, current U.S. positions, the Iraq-Iran war, the international conference, and Israel's espionage activities in the United States to obtain secrets on Jordan, Egypt, and other Arab countries.

U.S. and Arab circles attach special significance to the resumption of Arab-U.S. dialogue following the postponement of trips to Washington by President Mubarak and King Husayn.

AL-DUSTUR Praises Soviet Position on Conference

JN301345 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Mar 87
pp 1, 23

[Unattributed news analysis: "Jordan, the Soviets, and the International Conference"]

[Text] The USSR is showing noticeable interest in the Middle East, with special emphasis on Jordan, the key to the Palestinian question.

Several Soviet political delegations visited Amman in a single month. Some came in an official capacity to hold high-level talks on ways to promote a regional settlement. We are referring here to the trips by Mikhail Sytenko, deputy foreign minister and roving ambassador; the head of the African Institute for Strategic Studies; and the senior delegation from the Supreme Soviet now in Amman. Some others came unofficially. This group includes several Soviet political figures. One may note the following in light of these visits:

1. During his meeting with the Supreme Soviet delegation yesterday, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i explained that a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved only through an international conference attended by all parties in the region and on the international level. The latter are represented by the permanent members of the UN Security Council: the United States, the USSR, France, Britain, and China. Jordan's loyalty to its position on an international conference, which is identical to the Soviet stand, is the sole road to a regional settlement. Such a solution can be attained only through international law as embodied by UN resolutions, the effective participation of the world organization itself, and the inclusion of all parties concerned. After all, the exclusion of any party is bound to upset the entire situation.

2. It is understood that the international conference idea is actually an old formula with some new modifications. The Geneva conference held on 21 and 22 December 1973 in the wake of the October War and Security Council Resolution 338, which reasserted Resolution 242 of 1967, took place under Soviet-American sponsorship. Now, however, all the permanent members of the Security Council should take part. This is especially true in view of the positive changes in the European position.

3. Jordan, which considers itself more concerned than others about solving the Palestinian question, given the burdens and responsibilities it has assumed toward this issue and the people of the occupied territories, realizes the dangers posed by Israel's continued occupation of the land, the expulsion of its inhabitants, and the exercise of other inhuman measures. All these considerations have made Jordan persistently active in work to reach a solution that brings peace, not surrender. Therefore, Jordan appreciates the Soviet position of support for an international conference. It also highly values Soviet moves in the region and the world, particularly in the direction of Europe, to obtain results that serve the Arab cause.

4. These high-level Jordanian-Soviet contacts to discuss all details and new developments are an indication of the deep relationship between our two countries and Jordan's faith in Soviet friendship, which backs Arab rights and the Jordanian and Arab inclination toward a peaceful solution that achieves the minimum at this phase of Arab political action. It is a distinguished relationship among peoples in the cause of peace. This Soviet stand is important against the backdrop of Zionist blackmail and America's flawed policy, which is openly biased toward Israel, extremist, and opposed to a just peace.

Fadlallah Rules Out Imminent Hostages Solution

JN310939 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 31 Mar (QNA) — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah spiritual leader in Lebanon, has ruled out the possibility of any imminent solution for the hostages saying that the time is not ripe for a solution to this issue.

In a statement published in *Al-Khalij* in Abu Dhabi, Fadlallah pointed out that the hostage issue has become a political card among the states supporting the kidnappers and the states to which the hostages belong. He added that news being circulated about the hostages is imaginary and created by intelligence quarters to cause excitement.

To Examine Steen Medical Report

NC311227 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 31 (AFP) — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizballah party in Lebanon, said Tuesday he would examine American hostage Alann Steen's medical report before announcing the position of Islamic law, or Shari'ah, in the case.

Shaykh Fadlallah spoke at a meeting with Muhammad Yakan, head of Beirut University College Development Department, and three of the wives of the four foreign hostages kidnapped January 24 in the campus.

Virginia Rose Steen, Mr Steen's wife, was unable to attend the meeting with Shaykh Fadlallah.

The Shi'ite leaders condemned the kidnappings and said he continued his efforts to release the four. He said kidnappings in Lebanon were the work of "secret services operating under several names, like the Islamic Jihad, the IJLP [Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine] or the Organization of Revolutionary Justice," the names of groups that have claimed kidnappings in Beirut over the last few years.

The IJLP, which claimed responsibility for abducting the four university lecturers, announced March 23 that Mr Steen was seriously ill and could have only ten days to live. The group said it would exchange Mr Steen for 100 prisoners held by Israel. [passage omitted]

Views Sectarianism, Iran Ties

NC310717 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah [Hizballah spiritual leader] has said that no partition, Muslim or Christian, could be viable in Lebanon. He added that no Muslim leader has ever thought of turning part of Lebanon into a Muslim state, noting his belief that governing Lebanon depends not on sects, but on the people, just like other countries of the world.

Shaykh Fadlallah noted that Syria's security role in West Beirut has achieved many results.

Touching on his relations with Iran, Fadlallah described them as general rather than binding, adding: There are no instructions, but there is continuous consultation. I act independently, he noted.

As for the kidnapped persons, he said that no one has sought their release harder than he but that he had run into dead ends.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Fadlallah on Hostages

PM310931 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Mar 87 pp 22, 23

[Interview with Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah spiritual leader, by Shirbil Zughayb in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: The sentencing to death of the French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin is beginning to assume political and humanitarian dimensions and will probably later assume a military dimension. You were one of those who intervened to halt the execution. How long can you bring pressure to bear in order to halt the execution? Is it true the Revolutionary Organization [name as published] will carry out this execution?

Fadlallah: The role I played was confined to making a humanitarian appeal with regard to foreign and Lebanese hostages in general and with regard to the urgent case of this person in particular. I have tried to raise the issue on a popular level with the aim of creating a psychological situation that would bring pressure to bear on the kidnappers via the masses. Because in the case of Normandin the personality and identity of the kidnappers is not clear, I was unable to establish direct contact with them. But I have tried to find several means of pressure in this field. Proceeding from my Islamic and humanitarian responsibility, which is based on rejecting this principle [of kidnapping] in the first place, I will do all I can in order to bring about a happy ending to this case.

Yet despite all the claims and rumors that are being spread, we would like to assert a fact which we have often reiterated, namely, that such matters should be resolved realistically, through quiet diplomacy, and away from the limelight. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Your Eminence, one of the many things that have been said in connection with Normandin's case is that Iranian-Syrian relations will enter a very negative stage if he is executed. What is meant by this remark?

Fadlallah: That can be explained by whoever said it; I am not interested in explaining it. In my view, Syrian-Iranian relations are strategically — even now — too strong to be affected by any individual political incident.

Al-Hawadith: Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said in an earlier statement that on the basis of information he received from Hizballah and other sources, the question of the hostages will not be resolved before 1989. What is your opinion about this remark and why was this date chosen?

Fadlallah: I have no information on the subject the man mentioned that would enable me to make an accurate statement. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Can the hostage problem be resolved peacefully or will it assume military dimensions?

Fadlallah: On the basis of a study of the political situation in general, I cannot see any military situation developing because all the parties involved in this matter are trying to benefit from it one way or another. The hostages card is being played by all those who exploit this matter politically and those who react to it. I would like to stress here that international political cynicism is involved in this matter. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: There is a riddle called Terry Waite. How can this riddle be solved?

Fadlallah: I have no detailed information on this matter. I have tried very hard to resolve it after the exchange of messages between the archbishop of Canterbury and myself. The exchange placed a special responsibility on me to try to unravel the ambiguities of the case, in addition to a public responsibility toward it. My conclusion is this is one of the cards being played regarding the means exchanged concerning the conditions of the disappearance of Terry Waite. [sentence as published]

Al-Hawadith: But Walid Junblatt accuses Hizballah of kidnapping Terry Waite. Do you believe this is true?

Fadlallah: The problem is that Mr Walid Junblatt's words on this subject are inconsistent. I read a statement by him that said Terry Waite is with Hizballah, but when the newspapers published this statement he denied it. So, as the matter is not clear to him, how can he make accusations?

Al-Hawadith: The Syrian entry into western Beirut has received various interpretations. These include the possibility of freeing the hostages, striking at terrorism in Beirut, and ending the camps war. Are these interpretations correct?

Fadlallah: In my view such interpretations could be mere wishes, could be plans which have been laid for Syria in this field, and could also be trial balloons in order to test reaction. We believe that the size of the Syrian forces that entered is not enough to achieve all these objectives at once. Several Arab and international quarters are involved in these issues, making them more political than security issues. The security issue is the lesser issue in dealing with this situation. We understand the security plan is being implemented to end the fighting. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: It is being suggested that secret contacts are taking place between certain leaders of the Islamic movement in Lebanon and Syrian officials in order to arrange the transfer to the south of Hizballah cadres and fighters with all their arms in return for incorporating Beirut's southern suburb in the security plan. Do you believe that this proposal is appropriate?

Fadlallah: I do not think any talks on this subject are taking place. But the point is that when the Islamic movement takes up arms, it does not do so in order to bring pressure to bear on citizens, to undermine their security, or to enter into skirmishes. The history of this movement testifies that this is its character, despite the charges against it with regard to certain matters relating to kidnapping and other activities. If this movement carries arms, it does so in order to confront the challenges the Lebanese war has brought to the fore. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Minister Nabih Birri believes that no red lines should be drawn before the Syrian Army's security plan in Lebanon. You have regarded the southern suburb as a red line before the advance of the security plan.

Fadlallah: In fact the talk about a red line laid down by the Islamic movement was not consistent with the movement's approach to the current issue. By its nature the matter is clear: We are realistic in our appraisal of the question of the security plan encompassing the southern suburb. This is when we observe that the area involves the camps issue which could raise more than one political problem outside Lebanon. Moreover, the security issue is complex in the present conditions involving the militias. Viewed within the Lebanese situation, the southern suburb could be regarded as a counterbalance to Beirut and to the mountain area. This could lead to the question of political balances dictating a certain situation to the advantage of the suburb within this context. [passage omitted]

With regard to the question of security red lines, I do not think the matter is being seen as such. The only point is that the southern suburb is in the situation — like certain parts of Beirut — of being a reservoir of manpower and arms for fighting Israel. This should not necessarily be made public because conditions do not allow revealing these issues. There is no problem involving the question of the southern suburb. And I do not think the strength of the Islamic movement in the southern suburb is greater than it is inside Beirut. Indeed, inside Beirut it could be still stronger than it is in the suburb, and indeed it remains strong in the fullest sense of the word. I believe that this issue should not be dealt with in such a consumerist manner, whether positively or negatively. [sentence as published] Indeed, it must be dealt with in a critical, conscientious, and rational manner, which many of those indulging in political consumerism lack. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Leader Denies Group Holding Hostages

NC301501 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Hasbayya, Lebanon, March 30 (AFP) — A high-ranking spiritual guide of the Moslem Shi'ite organisation Hizballah denied Monday that his group was holding Western kidnap victims.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli told reporters that the fundamentalist Moslem group "does not hold (Western) hostages" and called for a solution to this situation which "harms the Islamic cause."

Shaykh al-Tufayli, who leads the Al-Biqa' valley branch of Hizballah, a pro-Iranian Shi'ite militia, condemned the kidnapping and said "we sympathise with the parents of the hostages and call on them to make a show of courage and seek comfort in the divine providence."

Pro-Iranian Islamic groups have claimed responsibility for most of the 25 Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon.

In other developments, the Hizballah (or Party of God) leader said that six Iranian Revolutionary Guards were killed in air raid attacks in Lebanon since 1983. One of the Iranian troops was killed when French fighter-bombers strafed Hizballah strongholds in the Al-Biqa' valley November 1983 following a car bomb attack against a French military headquarters in Beirut.

An Israeli air raid against another Hizballah base in the southern part of the Al-Biqa' was responsible for the death of the other five Iranians, Shaykh al-Tufayli added.

He said Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who entered Lebanon during the 1982 Israeli invasion, do not fight Israeli troops but provide military expertise and technical assistance to their Lebanese brothers.

Birri Claims 'Arafat's Force 17 Knows Kidnappers

NC301753 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1650 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has expressed his belief that those who have kidnapped and are detaining foreign hostages have found themselves in an embarrassing position. They want to release the hostages, he asserted.

Birri received a delegation from the Beirut University College today which included Muhammad Zuhdi Yakan, director of development at the college; a number of teachers and students; and the wives of the four abducted teachers. Birri reviewed with them the progress that has been made in the efforts undertaken to secure the release of these professors.

Replying to a question about Yasir 'Arafat's accusations against Amal, Birri stated: If there is even one person in the world who believes 'Arafat, then we advise you to believe him also.

When asked whether the hostages were in the Al-Ghalayini building [not further identified], Birri said: You are in West Beirut. Anyhow, I do not need to defend the Amal Movement. Amal does not kidnap people; it always works to save those who have been abducted. It is my belief that the kidnappers are now in an embarrassing position and want to set the hostages free. Force 17 knows who the kidnappers are and for whose benefit these roles are being played. They level such accusations in order to belittle the important role which the Amal Movement plays to save the hostages, to establish security in West Beirut, and to remove the stigma of terrorism from honest people.

Ready To Exchange Israeli Pilot

NC301839 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 30 (AFP) — Syrian General Ghazi Kan'an denied Monday that three American hostages and one Indian were in the hands of Syrian military intelligence forces in West Beirut, as PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said Sunday.

Syria "has no interest in detaining" hostages but "makes serious efforts to free them," said Gen. Kan'an, commander of Syrian military intelligence forces in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Amal leader Nabih Birri implicitely accused the intelligence services of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) — the so-called Force 17 — of holding the four hostages. "The Force 17 know where they are and they can get them released if they want to," he told the press here.

In an interview with *Agence France-Presse* Sunday in Baghdad, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said that three American teachers and an Indian teacher abducted from Beirut University College (BUC) last January were "now under Syrian control" in Moslem-dominated West Beirut. [passage omitted]

Mr. Birri met Monday with the wives of the four hostages, who expressed concern over their husbands' fate and were especially worried about Mr. Steen's health, according to BUC official Muhammad Yakan, present at the meeting.

The Amal leader refused to comment on Mr. 'Arafat's statements. He said, however, that he was "ready to free without compensation" the Israeli pilot captured by Amal in October 1986 "if the (PLO's) Forces 17 release the BUC professors and obtain the freedom of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel."

"The Forces 17 know where they (the four hostages) are and can get them released if they want to," he said. [passage omitted]

Amal's Musawi Says Hostage Talks Must Include Iran

NC301244 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Husayn Musawi, Islamic Amal Movement leader, has stated that the issue of the hostages in Lebanon can be solved only through negotiations between Iran and the Western countries concerned, such as France and the United States. He pointed out that this issue was not discussed during a visit to Syria last Wednesday by a Hizballah delegation. He pointed out that the Islamic revolution concurs in the kidnappers' demands, including the release of 17 persons detained in Kuwait and Anis Naqqash, who is being held in France on charges of attempting to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar. If Jean-Louis Normandin or any other hostage is innocent, he must be released or at least, kept alive Musawi said.

Syria's Kan'an Comments on Meeting With Karami

NC301411 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpts] A meeting was held today at the Government House between Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] as part of the visits that the latter is paying to leaders in West Beirut to brief them on the results of the 10th round of [Lebanese-Syrian] discussions.

Yesterday Gen Kan'an visited Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Dr Salim al-Huss, and Minister Nabih Birri, to whom he gave the text of the new plan for a political solution, which was prepared by President Amin al-Jumayyil. [passage omitted]

Speaking after the meeting, Kan'an said: I brought the document that the presidential delegation presented in Damascus with me and have conveyed this document to the other Lebanese parties so they could make their remarks. A new meeting will be held in light of these remarks to resume the discussions that will continue until a Lebanese national solution is reached.

Following his visit to the Government House, Gen Kan'an discussed the security situation in the capital, the hostage issue, and the camps question.

Answering a question on gaps in security, Kan'an said: This is not a problem. Such gaps exist everywhere in the world. If there are violations by some forces, then such instances are not a matter of concern and do not affect the security situation at all. [passage omitted]

When asked whether he was working toward the release of more hostages after succeeding in freeing the two kidnapped Saudi citizens, Kan'an answered: We hope to be able to free all hostages because this is a humanitarian question. We hope to succeed, but other efforts are also being exerted in this regard.

In response to a question on whether it was true what Palestinian sources have said about Kan'an and other parties holding hostages, he said: They are liars. We have no hostages, and we have said this before. Hiding them serves no purpose at all. We are truly serious in our efforts to secure their release.

When asked whether there was anything new in regard to a solution to end the camps war, he answered: We are trying to control the situation in and around the camps. However, local forces link solving the camps war with a comprehensive solution to the problem of the camps in the south and Sidon, as well as in Beirut. We are trying to ease the situation and the inhabitants' sufferings, but the followers of 'Arafat have barricaded the camps and have demonstrated around the camps, causing quite a reaction. We are also trying to allow the PNSF a role in ending the situation inside the camps and controlling the situation around them. We will spare no efforts in this regard.

Karami Views Talks

NC301429 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Statement by Prime Minister Rashid Karami after meeting with Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, and the Soviet ambassador in Beirut on 30 March — live or recorded]

[Text] I have just met with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, who briefed me on the recent paper submitted by the Lebanese delegation. This paper is, in fact, almost a carbon copy of the present system in Lebanon, while what is required to achieve a partnership is a plan with fundamental changes. This is my preliminary impression, of course; we will not define our final position until we have made some more contacts. However, I hasten to say I was one of those who proposed the elimination of political sectarianism in the presidency. I also proposed the rotation of the presidency, and still adhere to this principled position.

With regard to my meeting with the USSR ambassador, he briefed me on some of the discussions held at the meetings in Moscow between the Soviets and the Americans.

I support the formation of a preparatory committee under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council to prepare for convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Kan'an Announces Arrest of West Beirut Car Bombers

NC311142 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
1115 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an announced today that six persons involved in the detonation of a booby-trapped car in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' [in West Beirut] 3 days ago have been arrested. He said that these persons have also been involved in other bombings.

Kan'an made this statement after a meeting with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi. He added that during the meeting they reviewed the general situation in the country and that severe measures have been agreed upon, noting that a follow-up plan has been drafted.

He said: We can reassure the citizens and tell them that we have arrested two groups consisting of six people who have been involved in bombings. We will arrest others, he added.

Syrians Target of West Beirut Missile Attack

NC311150 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Three explosions directed against Syrian positions occurred in West Beirut today. A Syrian foot patrol was the target of a missile attack near a gasoline station in Al-Tariq al-Jadidah. The patrol responded with intensive fire. Traffic came to a complete standstill in the area.

Two bombs exploded at noon today near 'Abd al-Nasir Mosque in Corniche al-Mazra'ah and in the Jisr al-Barbir area. Both blasts caused material damage.

Syrians Execute Internal Security Forces Member

NC272250 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces carried out a new execution in West Beirut yesterday, the second in less than 24 hours. This time the victim was Private Fadi Jamal al-Din, a member of the Internal Security Forces.

Nasirite Organization, Palestinians Clash in Sidon

NC301552 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1541 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Clashes involving the use of machine guns and rockets have been taking place for the last 30 minutes between the Nasirite Popular Organization and the Palestinians in Sidon.

The clashes began with a dispute between the Nasirite Organization's security police and the Palestinian groups near the Government House and have spread to the Nuns School triangle, the southern approach to Sidon, and the roads leading to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

Casualties Reported

NC302038 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Security officials have succeeded in containing the clashes that took place east of Sidon after armed Palestinians loyal to Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] tried to assault the main center for the Nasirite Popular Organization's security police. The assault was carried out after the security police arrested one of these Palestinians because he had violated security in Sidon and was carring weapons openly. Rockets and heavy machine guns were used in the clashes that lasted about 1 hour. A number of people were killed and wounded.

A meeting attended by representatives of eight Palestinian factions and Dr Usamah Sa'd, [Deputy Secretary of the Nasirite Popular Organization], was held this evening at the offices of the Nasirite Popular Organization. The participants agreed to hand over the perpetrators and restore calm to the city. [passage omitted]

Israeli Navy Reportedly Intercepts Cargo Ships

NC291202 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, at noon today the Israeli Navy intercepted two cargo ships that were preparing to enter the port of Sidon with a cargo of food. The Israelis ordered the vessels to sail out to sea, where they were searched.

Hizballah Talks Focus on Lebanese Security

JN302010 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 28 Mar 87 pp 1, 14

[Text] Beirut — Private information available to *Al-Bayan* confirms that the talks between a Hizballah delegation and Syrian officials headed by President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus the day before yesterday dealt with a number of political and security issues concerning the security arrangements supervised by the Syrian Army in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon.

This information revealed that the Hizballah delegation, led by Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli of the Al-Biqa' region, previously held similar talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on a number of security steps in Al-Biqa'. It was agreed Hizballah would evacuate the 'Abdallah barracks, the party's main barracks, in Ba'labakk and hand them over to Syrian forces stationed in the area.

Sources in the Hizballah delegation that visited Syria described the talks with Syrian officials as positive and cordial. They said the talks centered on relations between the two sides and the Syrian security plan in Beirut and its southern suburb. They explained the Syrian president's affirmation of Hizballah's role in resisting Israel and the United States.

The Syrian president said the incident at the Hizballah barracks in the Al-Bastah area, which led to the killing of 22 Hizballah members, was not planned by Syrian leaders, but was the result of a mistake.

These sources told *Al-Bayan* that the talks also covered the question of the southern suburb, and that the Syrian position was in harmony with Hizballah's stand on the need to implement a security plan there.

Press on Beirut Explosions, 'Agent' Role

JN301332 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Abnormal Situation Contradicts the Lebanese People's Aspirations," the newspaper *Al-Ba'th* says in a comment today: Leader al-Asad's historic decision to rescue Beirut from the destruction that jeopardized it and threatened to inflict mortal wounds, was as surprising to the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs as it was natural for all honest fighters and those looking forward to salvation. This applies most of all to the overwhelming majority of our fraternal people in Lebanon, who have suffered great sorrow and distress. Therefore, it was no surprise that the entry of the messengers of peace and amity into West Beirut to stop the nightmares of terror, bring security and stability, and restore life to normal received such massive support and sweeping popular approval. Nor was it a surprise that the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs would attempt to undermine the firmness of security achieved with such unexpected speed. In addition, it came as no shock that the hands of treason and agentry would move to snatch tranquility and comfort from the people of Beirut. Those who stood to lose cared for their own interests alone, even if that required the destruction of the plagued capital. Who are those tampering with the security of the people and homeland?

Al-Ba'th adds: Talking about dirty hands is of little purpose if we know the head and point to it directly. The scheme is exposed. Israel has repeatedly started fires in Lebanon with an eye to partition. Israel has much to gain from its division. However, the years of ordeal, despite their hardship, and although they brought Lebanon to the verge of division according to Israel's calculations, failed to make Lebanon fall into the bottomless pit. When Israel realized this failure, it started to create a constant state of confusion. This was described by leader Al-Asad as an abnormal situation that must be removed. After all, such a state contradicts the Lebanese people's aspirations to national unity and independence.

Concluding, *Al-Ba'th* notes: That is why Syria extended and continues to extend support to the brothers, making sacrifices for their sake to extricate them from the abnormal situation. Salvation will undoubtedly be achieved. Syria's response to the fraternal people's appeal, and this great people's response to Syria's initiative with all its implications, constitute a force capable of severing all dirty hands and confronting the mastermind of sedition.

Gentlemen, on the same subject, and under the headline "The Attempts of Plotters," *Tishrin* says: Continuous attempts to disrupt security in Beirut and the indiscriminate killing of innocent citizens are part of the Zionist scheme to fragment Lebanon and end its role. If such attempts point to something, they point to the rancor of the Zionists and their agents, and the extent of their involvement in spiteful crimes. He who detonates booby-trapped cars killing citizens cannot be Lebanese and has no relationship with the homeland, even if he carries its passport. He is an enemy agent and a hireling lacking consciousness and conscience. He must get his just punishment in the end and be turned away by the homeland. Perhaps it is one of Lebanon's misfortunes to be plagued by a number of hirelings who take orders for pay. They do not hesitate to commit misdeeds and crimes. They are hired by agents to undermine the security plan and return the capital to its cycle of death and destruction.

The paper continues: Since the Syrian forces' entry into Beirut in response to the call for help from its population and officials, and in answer to a pan-Arab and humanitarian duty, the Zionised ones began to cast doubt on the usefulness of this action. With the prevalence of security and stability, the inhabitants' zealous cooperation with the Syrian and Lebanese regular forces, and calls by residents of other areas to free them from the control of hireling militias and expand the security plan, the plotters against Lebanon's unity and Arabism made repeated attempts under cover of darkness to disturb security and frighten the people. At the same time, they are placing obstacles in the way of national accord. They hate the idea of a secure and stabile Lebanon. With security and stability, their hireling militias fall, their agent role ends, all their masks drop, and they can be punished by the citizens once plagued by their evils and crimes.

Tishrin adds: Syria has made invaluable sacrifices to safeguard Lebanon's unity, both land and people. It will continue to do so on the basis of its pan-Arab, fraternal, and humanitarian duty, realizing that what befalls Lebanon befalls Syria, that the security of the two countries is indivisible, and that the conspiracy aimed at Lebanon is aimed against it as well. Calm and security prevailed where Syrian forces deployed. Citizens resumed their daily life and began to rebuild what the war has destroyed. Syria will spare no assistance to extricate the Lebanese from their ordeal. Its slogan has always been that a solution must be a national one. What the Lebanese agree on is best, for it will be the result of dialogue and conviction.

Tishrin concludes: Syria is still committed to its promise, providing security for the citizens in the areas where it has a presence and encouraging all parties to activate efforts for dialogue and reconcilation to reach the desired solution. However, Syria will lie in wait for all those working to partition Lebanon and peddling the Zionist scheme to explode, fragment, and obliterate Lebanon's role, existence, and identity.

People's Assembly Approves Draft Budget Report

JN270928 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus — The People's Assembly at 1100 today held a session under Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi in the presence of Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and the ministers. The Assembly began its session by discussing the report submitted by its Budget and Auditing Committee on the draft law of the state general budget for 1987 and the cabinet's financial statement on the objectives outlined in the budget. When the committee prepared its report, it took into account the resolutions of the conferences of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party as well as the directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad because they constitute the general framework that enhances and bolsters Syria's steadfastness in its confrontation of conspiracies that seek to harm the Arab nation's existence and decisive causes.

The committee's report included its remarks on the figures contained in two sections of the budget: the section on current expenditures and the section on investment expenditures. It also included proposed amendments on the draft budget and recommendations the committee deemed fit to emphasize, as well as proposals in Assembly committee reports that were referred to the abovementioned committee. These proposals concern issues in agriculture, irrigation, industry, oil, supply, education, higher education, and services. The report said the draft budget was in line with basic guidelines and principles of the economic and financial policy that seeks to increase reliance on domestic resources, rationalize expenditures, reduce inflation, and reduce deficits. The committee expressed its appreciation for and pride in our Armed Forces for its accomplishments — accomplishments that have greatly contributed to realizing Syria's national and pan-Arab objectives. These achievements, the committee noted, also helped Syria to confront all Zionist and reactionary schemes against our land, our people, and our existence. The committee emphasized these victories will be preserved and will continue to be scored under the leader of the march of our people and nation, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, until our objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism are achieved.

The report submitted by the Assembly's Budget and Auditing Committee included a number of proposed amendments to the draft budget. The proposed amendments involve increasing allocations for investment projects of some popular organizations, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. The recommendations in the report stipulate that tax deductions be reviewed to do people justice and relieve the burden on the struggling masses. The recommendations also stipulate that the state depend on direct taxes and that it take wrongdoers to task. The recommendations also stipulate that the state implement production plans and secure the inputs needed for agricultural and industrial production on time. They also require that the state enforce measures that discourage people from importing luxury goods and that measures be taken to stem the migration of people from villages to cities to preserve agriculture and agricultural production. They also stipulate that the public sector be supported and that investment projects be implemented on schedule.

Some Assembly members discussed the report. They emphasized the importance of Syria's slogan, which was upheld by President Hafiz al-Asad and which emphasizes the need for strategic parity with the enemy. They also stressed the importance of utilizing resources, developing the public sector, and accelerating efforts to finalize the Sixth 5-year Development Plan. The Assembly members praised the budget, as it shows there is support for the agricultural sector, irrigation, agricultural industries, and the requirements of this sector. They also hailed efforts to secure as many of these requirements as possible from local markets to do away with imports that affect production cost and the availability of hard currency. They also emphasized the need to quickly secure medicines and foodstuff supplies in a way that meets the public's needs, prevents shortages and tampering with prices, and ends monopolies and monopolistic schemes. The Assembly members emphasized that the hardworking must be rewarded and that wrongdoers and transgressors in all sectors must be punished.

Afterward, Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs, praised the committee's report, which showed an understanding of the objectives of the draft budget and enriched it. He also thanked Assembly members for their remarks, which sought to advise the government on its executive actions, including its efforts to prepare forthcoming budgets. These remarks, the deputy prime minister said, also seek to give the government useful advice on the current draft budget, which needs improvement. Qaddur also referred to the government's inclination to rely on domestic resources and rationalize expenditures. He also spoke of the government's interest in achieving horizontal and vertical expansion in agriculture, which is considered the basic pillar and nerve center of our national economy. He emphasized that popular organizations, especially the peasants' union, must carry out their missions and attain their objectives. Qaddur stressed that the requirements of the agricultural sector constitute a priority for the government, because this aids in the promotion of production and development, thus helping us secure what is needed for defense, which, in turn, is dictated by the circumstances experienced by our country and nation.

Finance Minister Qahtan al-Suyufi also spoke and answered questions about allocations for local councils and about earmarking required funds for new projects in the primary education sector. He also explained the missions and duties of the subsidies fund, the state's reliance on direct taxes, and the rationalization of administrative expenditures. He emphasized the inclination to translate budget figures into tangible realities in a realistic and factual manner to help strike an economic balance in accordance with Ba'th Party resolutions and the leader's directives.

Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, clarified some points and issues related to the Sixth 5-Year Plan, which will be submitted to the Assembly. Dr Mahmud al-Kurdi, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, spoke and cleared up some points related to his ministry, some of which concern the desert, the classification of land, the agricultural cycle, and economic and technical aspects of crop diversification.

The Assembly approved the report and the recommendations contained therein. The session was then adjourned until 1100 on 28 March.

Endorses General Budget

JN282031 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly held a session today under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi in the presence of Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs, and other ministers.

During its session, the People's Assembly continued its discussion of the 1987 general state budget. The deliberations centered on the budget's chapters and sections. Following this discussion, in which a number of members, including Finance Minister Qahtan al-Suyufi, took part, the assembly endorsed many expenditure items, including the budgets of the Ministries of Awqaf, Foreign Affairs, Information, Higher Education, Education, Culture and National Guidance, Social Affairs and Labor, Health, Economy and Foreign Trade, Finance, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Irrigation and its affiliated associations, Oil and Mineral Wealth, and others. The assembly then discussed the chapters on revenues and endorsed them. The general state budget of 41,703 million pounds was approved as well. [passage omitted]

Officials Continue To React to Sela' Resignation

Shamir Views Move, Herut

TA301639 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Rafi Reshef — live in the studio]

[Text] [Reshef] Our first guest today is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Good evening, sir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Reshef] By the nature of things, even before we discuss the Herut Movement Convention, I believe we should somehow address the Pollard affair. As the prime minister, who maintains daily contact with the U.S. Administration and with the U.S. Jewish community, has the move by Colonel Avi'em Sela made things easier for you?

[Shamir] Yes, of course, and by and large this is a positive development.

[Reshef] Was a hint to Sela' out of the question, if he could not actually be forced to resign — since such a move was seen as a way to make things easier?

[Shamir] I believe this solution is the best. The truth is that on the basis of what I know about Col Sela' — although I have never met him and do not personally know him — on the basis of what I have heard about him, I might have expected him to take such a step.

[Reshef] Mr Shamir, has this move not been coupled with a feeling of pain, perhaps some pangs of guilt, over the fact that it is the operational echelon that is forced to pay the price once again?

[Shamir] We felt pain over the entire affair, and after all the search for the culprits or the hunt for those who would be asked to pay the price is actually not the heart of the matter. In fact, Israel as a whole is paying the price for it.

[Reshef] In hindsight, would you say that those in charge of the affair erred in appointing Sela' commander of the Tel Nof Air Base at this unfortunate time?

[Shamir] At this point I would not go into an analysis of past events. This is something for the committees dealing with the issue to investigate.

[Reshef] Could you predict immediate implications of this move on our relations with the United States?

[Shamir] I think it will make things easier.

[Reshef] How will this be manifest in reality?

[Shamir] It has to do with the atmosphere and the overall attitude. It is impossible to point to any specific point, but I believe it will have practical ramifications on developments.

[Reshef] Mr Shamir, now is the time to congratulate you, first of all for your election as chairman of the Herut Movement.

[Shamir] Thank you very much.

[Reshef] I have already heard that you said that the winner in this round was actually the convention, but David Levi, for one, emerged vulnerable and bitter, describing relations with you as...did he say an uneasy friendship, a cruel friendship? So what have we actually achieved? How has the movement been rehabilitated?

[Shamir] Look, the main achievement in this convention was the end of the internal disputes that paralyzed its activity and the election of the men to the central positions. It has made possible the establishment of party institutions that will operate the movement and lead it. In effect, it was unity that was achieved, unity in the action of all the elements within the Herut Movement. Someone may have been slighted or displeased with the convention resolutions, but I am sure that with time we will find common ground and a way to continue to march forward together.

[Reshef] But how? After all, Presidium Chairman Moshe Qatzav said publicly to the press that if anyone had sabotaged these efforts over the past 12 months, since the last miserable party convention, it was David Levi. After your latest convention yesterday, he again sounded bitter and hurt, so where does party rehabilitation feature in this?

[Shamir] I believe Qatzav was talking about what happened last year.

[Reshef] That is correct. He was referring to events that occurred throughout the year.

[Shamir] I believe that yesterday we largely corrected what went awry last year. The movement withstood the test, and we demonstrated outwardly that we are capable of holding deliberations, even with differences of opinion, in an orderly fashion.

[Reshef] So everything is back to normal between you and David Levi?

[Shamir] I think so. Anyway, for my part, I see no problems in continuing to work together and maintaining joint activity with David Levi. We both know that there are no differences of opinion between us, although there may be subtle differences in the way we see things, which are totally secondary.

[Reshef] Yes, but even beyond the David Levi issue, you must surely be aware of the fact that some members of your own camp, such as Binyamin Begin or Dan Meridor, opposed the agreement that you were party to, saying that you were actually playing into Ari'el Sharon's hands?

[Shamir] That is not true; I have never heard anything of the sort. Furthermore, I would simply not use the term: my camp. I have no camp; I care for the Herut Movement as a whole. There are very many people with whom we share an understanding. They are people thought to belong to camps other than mine, but we saw yesterday at the convention that the larger part, actually the majority of the convention members, belong to no camp at all. They are worried and concerned about the need for unity in the movement and the need to refrain from investing all their energy and resources in internal disputes.

[Reshef] Let us just recall that Beni Begin openly supported Knesset Member 'Ovadya 'Eli against Ari'el Sharon.

[Shamir] That is all right; after all, people are entitled to different opinions within the same framework. Moreover, in the proposal submitted to the delegates, I urged them to vote for the three [cabinet] members to man the central posts, but qualified that there might be someone who would not approve of one of the three, or who might think that perhaps another person should be elected instead. We must overcome all this and view the overall picture. We must have the general goal in mind, and that is the unity of the movement and its ability to function. Nearly all the delegates to the convention behaved accordingly, and this was reflected in the results.

[Reshef] Yes, but if you will permit me to pursue the line of those who, even if they are not full members of your camp, are still undoubtedly associated with you. They are actually afraid that Ari'el Sharon, who was elected chairman of the Movement Central Committee, will actually not be interested at all in electing an Executive to elect a Secretariat, so that the forum that is in fact supposed to lead the movement and activate it will only be the Central Committee under his control?

[Shamir] This is not at all possible; it is unrealistic. This is a 2,000-strong forum, which cannot lead a movement. My colleagues and I will make sure that party institutions are established, that an Executive and a Secretariat are set up. Besides, people have been grossly overrating the role of the Central Committee chairman. We have already had people holding that job. Everyone has his role and post to execute, and he must not digress or overstep his authority. There are modes of operation, channels for action within the movement.

[Reshef] So what exactly are you saying, Mr Shamir, that all the residue from the last convention has been wiped out, that yesterday the convention ended with victors and no losers, and that relations in the leadership are currently harmonious and calm?

[Shamir] If you noticed, I am not saying, and never did, that this would be a unity achieved through complete calm and tranquillity. However, the foundations have been laid for full unity, unity of joint action, and yesterday's convention halted the cycle of disputation or infighting among the various camps. I believe yesterday's convention put an end to the strengthening of the camps as a whole. Today our men, or at least most of them, are averse to the division into camps.

[Reshef] Yes, but it is no secret that everyone aspires to replace you, naturally only when the time comes, as head of the movement. Do you think anyone has grown closer to that goal following the convention yesterday?

[Shamir] I think no one grew closer or farther from it yesterday. When the time comes, the Central Committee will convene and the person who should be movement leader or head of the list for Knesset elections will be elected so by the Central Committee members, in a manner completely independent of what took place yesterday. The two will be completely unrelated.

[Reshef] Mr Shamir, you marked your 70th birthday last October.

[Shamir] And what is that supposed to mean? [laughing]

[Reshef] I am merely asking whether you will run again in November for another term?

[Shamir] I will decide in November. I have not yet made up my mind, and it will depend on the circumstances, my feelings, my assessment of the situation. It will depend on a lot of things, so why should I introduce this note, which could serve as further cause for dispute, now? Let us wait and cross the bridge when we get there.

[Reshef] Do you have any doubt at all whether you will run for another term? Is there room for considering this at all?

[Shamir] If I tell you that I still do not know whether or not I will run, that means that I do have my doubts. The fact of the matter is that I am not even giving it any thought. I think about what I need to do tomorrow or the next day; usually I think about the future of the movement and view the manpower at our disposal, and I must say that when I observe this I become more and more optimistic.

[Reshef] Mr Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, we can end this interview on this optimistic note. Thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Peres: Decision 'Courageous'

TA301618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Avi'em Sela' did a *courageous* thing by resigning and that he appreciates this move. Our correspondent in the south reports that Mr Peres made these remarks during a visit to Dimona. According to him, no one forced Sela' to resign from his post, and his decision must be respected.

Rabin on U.S. Response

TA301838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the U.S. welcoming of the resignation of Colonel Sela' serves as a relief.

Answering a question on whether the resignation of Sela' should be viewed as a sacrifice by the operational level, Rabin said:

[Begin recording] I can say that as defense minister, I was severely criticized for appointing him, or approving his appointment as Tel Nof Base commander, although I withheld his promotion. I have had the opportunity to read only of criticism of this decision both in Israel and around the world, so I can see no grounds for saying that the political echelon has forsaken him through an official resolution. I do not deal today with lessons of the past, and I think it is too early to engage in such activity. I believe that part of the leaked information that is being published is taken out of its appropriate context. I also think that some of the actions being taken are not necessarily directly connected to the investigation of the truth and facts. I hope that we will be able to overcome this. [end recording]

Our correspondent adds that the defense minister never asked Col Sela' to resign and that U.S. pressure was not related to the political echelon. Mr Rabin pointed out that relations with the United States are continuing as usual in everything pertaining to the two countries' defense establishments.

Further Rabin Comments

TA302015 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The resignation of Colonel Avi'em Sela' did not stir up a turmoil in the IDF. While senior officers today expressed support for his move, they nonetheless said that it would have have been better for him to resign earlier. Meanwhile Sela' is still on his job, and no dscision has yet been made regarding his next assignment. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports from the studio:

Senior IDF sources said this evening: We were not surprised by the move by Sela; the only surprise was the length of time it took him to reach the decision to resign. The IDF feels that the operational echelon has been suffering most of the blows while the political echelon has thus far emerged unscathed. Air Force sources told us this evening: Col Avi'em Sela' does not believe his resignation is over an action he took that was duly backed and approved. His decision to resign was reached only after his involvement in the affair became blown out of all proportion and the damages turned out to be severe, particularly as far as U.S.-Israeli relations are concerned. Col Avi'em Sela' contemplated resignation a few weeks ago, but he came under no pressure to resign; on the contrary, his decision was withheld due to pressure from many people, who asked him not to resign but to wait for the results of the investigation by the committee [not further identified].

Nonetheless, there are members of the IDF and the defense establishment who feel the demand by Sela' and other Air Force officers — that the promotion promised him be made good — was not properly weighed.

Minister Rabin, who decided to promote Avi'em Sela', first voiced his reaction to the decision by Sela' to resign his post as Tel Nof Base commander during a tour of Ma'oz Ziyyon this evening:

[Begin videorecording] [Rabin] I saw that this was his own personal decision, the motives being his feeling that under the current circumstances taking this step would remove an obstacle to contacts between the U.S. and Israeli Air Forces. He is commander of a large Air Force base and said he understands the responsibility for pilots and troops of that base, for relations between the IDF and the U.S. Armed Forces, and between the United States and Israel as a whole.

[Shlonsky] What is your opinion of his move?

[Rabin] I regard it as a decision made by a man without any influence or outside pressure. I greatly appreciate his step, taken in the circumstances under which we live and owing to the attitude that emerged both in the U.S. public and among certain elements of the U.S. Administration about the Avi'em Sela' case.

[Shlonsky] Do you not feel that once again the operational level has suffered the consequences while the political echelon, at least for the moment, has emerged unharmed?

[Rabin] Look, first of all, no one asked Col Sela' to do this. Second, U.S. pressure and conditions were unrelated to the political echelon. As for what will happen with the political and other echelons, we have time to wait. The facts will be unearthed, and if there are questions, there will undoubtedly be room for answers.

[Shlonsky] Did you sense that Sela' felt that his colleagues had recently forsaken him?

[Rabin] I do not think I can answer for him. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Eban on U.S. Influence

TA300822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Interview with Knesset Member Abba Eban by anchorman David Grossman over the telephone — live]

[Text] [David Grossman] There are no official reactions yet in the United States to Sela's resignation. It is the weekend there, but the media are publishing the report in very large print and unofficial reactions welcome the move. Good morning to Knesset Member [MK] Abba Eban.

[Eban] Good morning.

[Grossman] To what extent will the resignation of Avi'em Sela' clear up relations with the United States or, perhaps, will relations remain troubled until all those involved in the affair draw their own conclusions?

[Eban] Look, this was undoubtedly a positive step that made a contribution to the Air Force's efficient functioning and to easing the tension in relations with the United States, and I think that this act should be duly respected.

[Grossman] My question was: Is it really clearing up the atmosphere?

[Eban] It contributes, although this is clearly only one aspect of this issue. In everything that touches on the intelligence work of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, I must say that we will persevere. The friends of Colonel Sela‘ have notified me that if we need further help, it will be given. There is not much [words indistinct], and there is no doubt that the cooperation — both in terms of giving advice and in general — will continue.

[Grossman] We are again witnessing moves that raise questions about the extent to which the United States can apply open, overt pressure to achieve its goals and influence our activity. Beyond that, do you still think that your committee, which is examining the affair, and the fact-finding committee will be able to preserve the witnesses' immunity if the United States really wants the evidence?

[Eban] As far as our subcommittee is concerned, it is clear that we are entitled to and must preserve the secrecy of the material. We will not transfer the material to any element outside the Government of Israel, and this applies even more to foreign elements. We have not yet decided which of the subcommittee's findings will be made public. After all, committees dealing with a security issue have never published all the material. Here I am referring to the establishment of the Kahan Commission. But there is no doubt that the main conclusions we are drawing from this study will have to be made public.

[Grossman] Sir, MK David Magen last night repeated a grave prediction about the political echelons as a result of your committee's evidence, and he too is a member of the committee. Do you confirm this?

[Eban] Look, it is just because of this that I agreed to be interviewed this morning, and I would like to say that it is not true that these or other findings will result from our discussions. We ourselves have not yet discussed what we will do and how we will deal with all the material that has accumulated. When the process began I decided, with the agreement of my colleagues, on three stages: The first stage will be to hear the evidence, and we have heard a great deal; the second stage is to allot several days to studying the material, to analyzing and classifying it; and only at the third stage, which I assume we will reach in mid-April, will we decide and announce what we will make public and how to conclude the process. Because this whole process may not be concluded until late April, I believe the media and all the committee members would do well to be patient and let the subcommittee proceed calmly.

Sela‘ Denies Granting Interview to Journalist

TA301732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] In a check that the IDF spokesman conducted with Colonel Avi‘em Sela‘, Sela‘ categorically denied granting any interview to a journalist in the past few days. The spokesman told our military correspondent that the source of remarks attributed to Sela‘ in one of the newspapers is unclear. The spokesman added that when Sela‘ submitted to the Air Force commander his request to be relieved of his command over Tel Nof, Major General Lapidot accepted the request and handed it on to the chief of staff.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 30 March mentions the above denial in its newsreel headlines, including the name of the newspaper: "In a check that the IDF spokesman conducted with Colonel Avi‘em Sela‘, Sela‘ categorically denied granting any interview to *Yedi‘ot Aharonot*, which today published remarks he allegedly made."]

POST Reports Contracts On Soviet Emigration Deal

TA260904 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Report by Robert Rosenberg]

[Excerpt] A deal that could lead to direct flights to Israel for thousands of Soviet Jews and U.S. economic concessions to the Soviets is being discussed in Moscow, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

The three-stage process, it is said, will include the U.S. waiving the Jackson-Vanik amendment in exchange for direct flights for all refuseniks in the Soviet Union, and waiving the Stevenson amendment, which denies American financial credit to the USSR, in exchange for free Jewish emigration. This is being discussed in Moscow by two prominent Jewish leaders and high-ranking Kremlin officials.

One indication of how seriously Jerusalem is suddenly taking the possibility of large-scale Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is that the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry have agreed on a $250m. absorption policy based on the assumption that as many as 10,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants could arrive this year.

At the Moscow discussions are Canadian tycoon Edgar Bronfman, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, and Morris Abram, president of the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations and also chairman of the U.S. National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Former Soviet ambassador to Washington Anatoliy Dobrynin is the host for the Moscow meetings, which are a continuation of a process begun in Washington at meetings in the Soviet Embassy. While Bronfman had talked with Kremlin officials in Moscow before, Abram's visit is the first by such a high-ranking American Jew identified with the campaign for Soviet Jewry.

According to sources in Jerusalem, the Jewish leaders will stress a process, which will begin with emigration for refuseniks, including those denied exit visas for allegedly knowing "state secrets."

The emigres would fly directly to Israel from either the Soviet Union or one of the Eastern Bloc countries — possibly Romania or Poland.

As that step unfolds successfully, the American Jews are to tell their Kremlin interlocutors that the U.S. Administration and Congress will begin the process of waiving the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which denies the USSR "most favored nation" status.

In the second stage of the process, *The Post* has learned, the U.S. Administration and Congress will be ready to waive the Stevenson amendment if the Soviets create what a Jerusalem source described as "normal emigration procedures to Israel."

The third stage will involve continued emigration for Soviet Jewry, as well as official approval of Jewish education organized and financed by the Jewish community. In exchange for such a development, U.S. corporations will be encouraged to undertake joint economic projects with the Soviets.

According to American Jewish sources, "the difference between the current talks and previous "disappointing" talks that Bronfman held with the Kremlin is that Bronfman has Abram with him. [quotation marks as published]

"Bronfman doesn't have the American Jewish political constituency but Abram does. Abram couldn't get the invitation to the Kremlin but Bronfman could," the sources said.

The Post has learned that the Bronfman-Abram mission was worked out during recent months in a series of meetings with officials at the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

U.S. Administration and congressional figures were consulted and both Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres were in the picture.

According to the American Jewish sources, Abram has been mandated by the groups he represents "to listen and learn" from the responses to the proposal, and to seek ways to continue the dialogue with the Kremlin. Both Bronfman and Abram are calling their proposal "a process," and are not using the term "negotiation."

Emigre movement sources said that inherent in the proposal being made to the Soviets is a commitment to "a process that lasts a least three years," in deference to Kremlin concerns about the plan's longevity being linked to President Reagan's term in office.

According to the sources, the Kremlin invitation extended by Dobrynin held out the possibility of a meeting today with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevarnadze, and if the talks proceed well, a meeting with Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev tomorrow.

The Soviet interest in such a plan is based on Moscow's desire to acquire Western goods and access to Western markets, which Bronfman believes could mean business worth tens of billions of dollars to the Soviets.

Peres, although not involved in the details of the proposal, encouraged the Moscow trip, arguing that once an arms control agreement was reached between Moscow and Washington — something which was thought likely in the coming year — the influence on Washington of American Jewish organizations, and by proxy, Israel, would be greatly limited.

Shamir's office closely followed the preparations for the Moscow talks. These involved extensive consultations with both administration and congressional officials.

Bronfman and Abram are deliberately avoiding any discussion of Moscow-Jerusalem relations, but implicit in the discussion about direct flights is some sort of upgrading of relations between Israel and the USSR. [passage omitted]

Sources 'Favorable, Cautious'

TA310558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] A major change in Soviet policy toward Jews appears to be imminent. The chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Morris Abram, says the Soviets have reassured him that there would be increased emigration as well as direct flights to Israel and an expansion of Jewish rights within the Soviet Union. He made these statements in a Voice of Israel interview after returning from 3 days of meetings in Moscow with high government and party officials. Jonathan Shechter reports:

[Begin recording] [Shechter] The meetings were termed candid and very positive. Morris Abram and Edgar Bronfman told the Soviets at the outset they were there to remove the issue of Soviet Jewry from the table of future international discussions. As a result of his talks, Abram told me he was reassured about and has reason to believe the following points:

[Abram] There will soon be established routes of flight of Soviet Jewish emigres through Romania; next, that substantially all refuseniks and families will be free to go to Israel within the year, with the exception of cases in which national security claims may legitimately be made; and we were reassured that procedures have now been established for appeal as far as the Supreme Soviet for previous decisions on security grounds.

[Shechter] Also, Abram said, he was told that first-degree relatives may emigrate for family reunification, and he feels the Soviets will be flexible in their interpretation of the phrase first-degree relatives. But discussions in Moscow dealt with more than issues of emigration.

[Abram] We were reassured that all Jewish religious books — I emphasize the word religious because that's what they said — from any source may be imported into the Soviet Union, and they asked Mr Bronfman and myself for lists; a kosher restaurant may be established in Moscow and ritual slaughtering will be permitted; synagogues will be opened in all sites where there is a demonstrated need; Soviet applicants for rabbinical training may receive such rabbinical training, even in the United States.

[Shechter] Abram added he was told the teaching of Hebrew to children in schools or synagogues now banned as religious instruction would be reevaluated. The issue of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union did not figure in the discussions, said Abram, except insofar that he stressed that everything, including direct flights, would be easier in a context of relations. The Jewish leaders did tell the Soviets, however, that with substantial increases in Jewish emigration, they would recommend year-by-year waivers of the Jackson- Vanik amendment.

Abram stressed that he and Bronfman were in the Soviet Union as private citizens, representing Jewish organizations. But he emphasized there is no truth to reports that those organizations made any arrangements to fund exit flights through Romania to Israel. The matter, said Abram, was never even mentioned. Abram said it remains to be seen whether the Soviets will deliver on their promises and glasnost becomes a reality for Soviet Jews. But, he said, he is cautiously optimistic. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 31 March carries a similar report, adding: "Dr Yisra'el Zinger, the president of the World Jewish Congress who was also a member of the delegation, told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that in his opinion these were no real agreements with the Soviets, only mere impressions. According to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, political sources in Jerusalem are taking a favorable, albeit cautious, view of the reports coming from the Soviet Union."]

Peres Believes Ties With USSR, PRC Developing

TA301115 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that Israel's relations with the Soviet Union and the PRC developed somewhat in the past week. Mr Peres said: We are trying to break down these impenetrable walls, and in my opinion there has been some development in our ties with both these countries which should be followed closely.

Government Queries U.S. on Aid for Dropping Lavi

TA301150 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Text] Israel has recently queried the United States as to the extent to which it would be prepared to share the expenses Israel would incur as a result of calling off the Lavi project, if the Israeli Government made a decision to that effect. No reply whatsoever has yet been received from the Washington administration.

An authoritative defense source said that Washington's silence creates uncertainty within the defense establishment about the cost of shutting down the project, if such a decision is indeed made. Also, it is not known how the United States will proceed if a decision to call off the project is made — whether it will slash the amount of aid or channel the funds to other purposes.

The source said that the final assessments of the alternatives to the Lavi compiled by Zakheim, the IDF, and the Air Force will be submitted to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin within the next few weeks.

The defense establishment is currently compiling an economic analysis of all the possibilities, taking into account the technological effects and the impact on unemployment.

The defense establishment will formulate its position once the alternatives are presented, and Minister Rabin will submit its findings to the government for a decision.

AL-FAJR Assesses Joint Palestinian Document

TA301230 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 27 Mar 87 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "The First Palestinian-Israeli Document"]

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli meeting held the evening before yesterday in one of the halls of the King David Hotel in west Jerusalem was in fact preceded by numerous similar meetings — some covert and some overt. This new meeting, however, stands out from the others because of the resulting document. This document was signed by all the Palestinian and Israeli participants, thereby indicating the achievement of a unique step in the "joint" commitment to clear and determined goals.

This important document specified its aims in three points: rejection of a political stalemate in the region; explicit approval for the convocation of an international conference; and condemnation of terrorism and acts of violence, regardless of their source.

It is now natural for this document to provoke a wide-ranging discussion leading either to its rejection or acceptance, but this discussion itself will serve the aims of the document. On the Israeli side, the Likud adheres to its position, which rejects the international conference concept. Because it is part of the Israeli coalition government, this will affect the chances for implementing the concept, despite the Alignment's conditional support for it. On the Palestinian side, opposition is emerging, even at present, to some of the positions supported by other Palestinian parties.

In the final analysis, however, the document weighs in favor of the international conference, whose convocation has been endorsed by most of the world's countries, in addition to general approval by the PLO. If this document did not openly contain an explicit mention of the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of our Palestinian people, it did refer to the PLO indirectly in its acknowledgment of the existence of the Palestinian people, as well as their interests and rights in their homeland and soil.

As Hanna Sinyurah, *Al-Fajr* editor and one of the document's signatories, has said: This document is a mere step at the beginning of the road, meaning that it must be followed by other steps to achieve further unambiguous clarifications among all the parties with the aim of reaching the hall of the international conference at the next stage.

'Terrorists' Killed in Security Strip Incidents

TA301401 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1354 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Three terrorists were killed last night in two encounters with the IDF in the northern part of the security strip in southern Lebanon. Our forces sustained no casualties. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the first clash occurred near the Hula pass in the central sector, and this clash ended in the death of one terrorist who had many weapons in his possession. The second clash took place near the Arnun pass, and there too the terrorists were found to possess many weapons. Our correspondent points out that searches the IDF carried out near the sites showed signs that additional terrorist casualties had been dragged away. The two squads were about to penetrate the security strip.

ALGERIA

Spanish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 30 Mar

Makes Arrival Statement

LD301422 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez arrived in Algeria this morning on a 24-hour official visit. He was welcomed at the Houari Boumediene International Airport by Dr Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister and member of the FLN Political Bureau. Here is a dispatch from the VIP lounge at the airport:

The Spanish minister considers his trip to Algeria to be extremely important. In a statement at Houari Boumediene Airport, he said:

[Begin Fernandez-Ordonez recording in Spanish with superimposed Arabic translation] The aim of this visit is to consolidate relations between Algeria and Spain. It is a new move on the road of cooperation between the two countries. We are optimistic about the results which will emerge from our talks with the Algerian side. [end recording]

Holds Talks With Ibrahimi

LD302106 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Algerian-Spanish political talks started this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry with a private meeting between Dr Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez. The talks were then enlarged to include the members of the two delegations. [passage omitted]

These talks dealt with issues of common concern, bilateral relations and ways to develop them, and current international affairs concerning the two countries.

These talks, which took place in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, enabled the two sides to make a detailed study of Algerian-Spanish cooperation in the long term, to exchange views freely, and to analyze regional and international political issues. On the bilateral level, the two ministers tackled the ways and means of setting up the mechanisms of political dialogue and consultation between the two countries and the development of the cultural and economic exchanges within the framework of the coming session of the joint committee for cooperation.

Regarding regional and international issues of common concern, the two ministers studied the development of the West Saharan conflict, mainly concerning the implementation of the UN resolution and the laudable UN-OAU joint endeavors. They also studied the situation in the Mediterranean Basin and the initiatives to make it an area of peace and cooperation. To this effect, the two sides dealt with the prospects of studying the Euro-Arab dialogue. The two ministers studied the situation in the Middle East as a whole and exchanged viewpoints related to the prospects of finding a just and final solution to the Middle East crisis within an international peace conference under UN auspices with reference to the recent EEC statement supporting the convening of this conference and the efforts exerted to unify the ranks of the Palestinian resistance. The two ministers studied some of the hotbeds of tension on the African Continent, mainly the situation in Chad in the light of efforts to engineer national reconciliation within that African state.

The Spanish foreign minister, who arrived this morning in Algiers, was received this afternoon by Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, candidate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister. He will also have talks with Brother Mostefa Benamar, minister of commerce. He will be the guest of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi this evening.

Mauritanian Military Delegation Ends 8-Day Visit

LD300302 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Colonel Shaykh Ould Bayda, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and chief of the Mauritanian National Guard, left Algeria today after an 8-day official visit.

The Mauritanian military delegation had talks with senior officials of the National Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, and the party. They also visited a number of National Guard schools and units.

Finance Minister Cited on Cooperation With USSR

For a 23 March *Pravda* account of Algerian Finance Minister A. Khellef's comments on Soviet-Algerian cooperation, see page H 3 of the Middle East & North Africa section of the 27 March Soviet Union *Daily Report.*

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Chad, France

LD292119 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Paris television carried in its newsreel this evening an interview with the brother leader of the revolution. In the interview, he spoke about a number of international issues, at the forefront of which was the situation in Chad and Libyan-French relations. The brother leader refuted the allegations that the Western media are trying to spread concerning the major role played by Libya in the Chadian problem. He reaffirmed that Libya was not a colonialist state.

The brother leader also pointed out that there was no power in Chad capable of preventing the Libyan forces from reaching Ndjamena at any moment. But we are freedom fighters and do not not advocate the enslavement of peoples, he said. He pointed out that France, by continuing to maintain military bases in a number of African states, lacks credibility regarding its calls for the peaceful resolution of disputes. The brother leader reaffirmed that Libya was committed to supporting the legitimate GUNT government and that this issue is a firm principle of Libyan policy affecting the question of liberty.

Claims Readiness for Cooperation

AB292054 Paris AFP in French 2002 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, 29 Mar (AFP) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has said in a direct television interview from Tripoli with French Television Channel A2 on Sunday evening that he would accept any international cooperation effort to solve the Chadian problem.

Asked whether Libya is ready for any direct confrontation of French troops, Col al-Qadhdhafi asserted that there is no justification for such a clash, stressing, however, that the Chadians will pursue their struggle against any foreign interference in their affairs.

Arab Leagues Secretary General Klibi Visits

Arrives in Tripoli 29 Mar

LD292320 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Mar (JANA) — Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League Secretary general, this evening arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent on his arrival at Tripoli International Airport, he explained that his visit falls within the framework of contacts and consultations with the brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah on the significant issues of the Arab world. Brother Chedli Klibi stressed in his statement that the stances of the Great Jamahiriyah in this period constitute a bright sign on the path of confrontation with the serious challenges that are facing our nation, and noted that the brother leader of the revolution is exerting relentless efforts in order to unite the factions of the Palestinian revolution.

The fruitful contacts and talks with the Great Jamahiriyah continue [words indistinct] and the Great Jamahiriyah's effort to stop the madness of the Iraq-Iran war.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD292323 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Mar (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, this evening.

Concludes Visit; Departs

LD292348 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brother Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, left Tripoli this evening at the end of his visit to the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Greets Palestinian Leaders

Meets PLF Secretary General

LD301916 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, March 30, JANA — The leader of the revolution received today Ya'qub Tal'at, the secretary-general of the Palestine Liberation Front.

Receives DFLP Secretary General

LD301915 Tripoli JANA in English 1747 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, March 30, Jana — Today the leader of the revolution received Nayaif Hawatimah, the secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberaton of Palestine.

Meets PFLP Secretary General

LD310341 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Dr George Habash, secretary-general of the PFLP. The brother leader of the revolution also received today Acheikh Ibn Oumar, president of the legitimate GUNT.

Palestinian Officials End Visit; Depart 26 Mar

LD272100 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Mar (JANA) — Brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC, and Brother Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC, left Tripoli yesterday evening at the end of a visit to the Great Socialist Peoples Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah during which they both took part in the meetings of the various factions of the Palestinian resistance.

MAURITANIA

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ties With Neighbors

PM241415 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 21 Mar 87 pp 16,17

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane by Hamidah Na'na' in Addis Ababa; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [Na'na'] How would you view the Sahara problem today?

[N'diayane] Our position toward this problem is based on the true meaning of neutrality. It is in Mauritania's interest and also in the interest of other states involved in the conflict that this neutrality be realistic, true, and correct. The proof of this is that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania maintains relations with all parties; Mauritania has cordial relations with Morocco, Algeria, and the Saharan Republic. Now each country understands our position well.

[Na'na'] In the past there were Saharans inside Mauritania.

[N'diayane] I can today confirm that there are no forms of Saharan presence within the boundaries of Mauritania.

[Na'na'] What about your relations with Algeria?

[N'diayane] In the past we had distinctive spasmodic relations with Morocco and also with Algeria, but our policy today is based on neutrality with all countries. This means that our relations with Morocco are as cordial as those with Algeria. As far as we are concerned both countries are Arab and African neighbors. We do not want to have good relations with one country at the expense of the other. We are a sovereign state and we adopt a policy that serves our interests. From the beginning we managed to assess our capabilities and work on the basis of sovereignty. Neighboring countries understood and accepted this and, consequently, we now have unconditional cordial relations with Morocco. The same applies to both Algeria and the Saharan Republic. In the past Mauritania's stand was not understandable, but it has now become clear.

[Na'na'] To some it seems that the recent change which led to the overthrow of ex-president Ould Haidallah favors and supports the Saharans?

[N'diayane] No, The basic reason for the change which took place in our country was the failure of the military committee for national salvation to apply its domestic and foreign policies. If we compare our relations with Algeria and Morocco before 12 December 1984 to those of today we can understand this fact well. Before this date we had normal relations with Algeria but there were none worth mentioning with Morocco. Today the situation is completely different.

[Na'na'] What about your relations with Senegal, especially since a few years ago [former] Senegalese President Senghor constantly talked of a crisis in relations with Mauritania due to what he called "the rights of the Mauritanian negros"? By the way would you also explain the problem of southern Mauritania to us?

[N'diayane] The negroes in Mauritania have no historical relations with and are not part of the Senegalese negroes. There are some families scattered here and there which can be counted on the fingers of one hand. The Mauritanian negroes are true Mauritanians because they have lived with the Mauritanians for centuries. As for our relations with Senegal, Senegal is a neighboring country with which we have historical relations; every day many Mauritanians go to Dakar and vice versa. In fact today there are no problems between Senegal and ourselves.

[Na'na'] It has been reported that some Mauritanian political forces were subjected to repression during the rule and also after the downfall of ex-President Ould Haidallah. How do you deal with these forces today?

[N'diayane] The political forces you are talking about do not exist. During the municipal elections which took place in Mauritania at the end of last year, we saw no trace of such forces. If they exist and have their influence and followers, why can they not be seen?. There are Mauritanian political figures who have their own political convictions, but these have no relations abroad and are not an extension to political forces in other Arab countries.

[Na'na'] Is there any thought of returning to civil rule?

[N'diayane] We have begun municipal elections, which were conducted in two stages. We began with the state capitals, where each state elected a municipal council to run its affairs. The elections were conducted on the basis of the list system; each state capital was allocated a number of lists in proportion to the density of its population. In Nouakchott, the capital, there were four lists; in Nouadhibou three lists were allocated; and so on. Each list had its specific program to promote without criticizing or offending other programs. This was in the first round of elections. As for the second round, it confirmed the results of the first round. In fact this is thought to be the first time in Africa that elections have been conducted in such a way.

[Na'na'] It is known that Mauritania suffered considerably from the drought that has hit Africa over the past few years. How did you deal with this problem, and what is the volume of Arab aid?

[N'diayane] They were difficult years during which we faced serious problems. But the Arab and friendly states as well as the appropriate world organizations played a real part in providing aid. But, in fact, whatever friendship and sympathy were displayed, we should have established a specific program to confront the disaster. Such a program would help those countries trying to help us. After 12 December 1984 we laid down an economic and financial reform program which we presented to international organizations and friendly countries. Such a program had its impact since it encouraged these establishments, organizations, and states to schedule their aid and make it more effective, a factor that eased this disaster which has not yet ended. The drought still exists and we have joint coordination programs with neighboring countries like Senegal, Mali, and Niger.

Statement on Spanish Foreign Minister's Visit

LD261126 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The Joint Spanish-Mauritanian Cooperation Commission ended its proceedings this evening under the joint chairmanship of Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, the Spanish foreign minister. [passage omitted]

The Joint Mauritanian-Spanish Commission for Cooperation has released a press statement, the text of which follows:

At the invitation of Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, the foreign minister of the State of Spain, paid an official visit to Mauritania on the 24 and 25 March 1987 leading an important delegation. During this visit Mr Fernandez-Ordonez was received by Colonel Maayou Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state. He held talks with the ministers of foreign affairs and cooperation, economy and finance, and fisheries and maritime economy. Talks focused on the bilateral amiable relations and means of giving them a new boost. The first session of the joint Mauritanian-Spanish Commission for Cooperation was held under the chairmanship of the two foreign ministers. The commission examined facets of cooperation, especially relating to technical cooperation projects. A plan was prepared to speed up the measures aimed at achieving this cooperation. The two sides agreed on the need to lay down a legal framework for this action. They also decided to organize semi-annual meetings between the two countries' foreign ministers for political consultation and coordination on cooperation issues, and to hold meetings of the joint commission for cooperation once every 2 years. The two ministers signed an agreement on a joint fund for the returns of food aid.

Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the fraternal atmosphere which dominated his visit and the interest shown by Mauritanian officials in bilateral relations. He conveyed an invitation from His Majesty the king of Spain to the CMSN chairman and head of state to pay an official visit to Spain and invited the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation to visit Spain. The date of the visits will be set later through diplomatic channels. [passage omitted]

MOROCCO

King Receives Romanian Deputy Defense Minister

LD302300 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpts] At the Royal Palace in Rabat this evening his Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, flanked by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, received Lieutenant General Victor Stanculescu, first deputy national defense minister [title as received] of the Socialist Republic of Romania, who is currently on an official visit to the Moroccan Kingdom. During this meeting, his majesty, may God make him stronger, decorated the general with the Alawite Medal. [passage omitted]

The Romanian minister was received this afternoon by prime minister Dr Azzedine Laraki. The two sides reviewed the various aspects of bilateral relations and the tight relations linking Morocco and Romania. The two sides emphasized the importance of intensifying these relations so that they would be at the level of the relations of respect between His Majesty King Hassan II and President Nicolae Ceausescu. [passage omitted]

Friendship Accord Signed With USSR; Veselov Leaves

LD261419 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, Mar 26 (MAP) — Chairman of the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Association and Education Minister of the Federative Republic of Russia Georgiy Veselov left here Wednesday at the end of a visit to Morocco made at the invitation of the chairman of the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Association Mohamed El Fassi.

During his stay, Veselov had talks with Moroccan officials, namely minister of National Education Mohamed Hilali and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Ahmed Akellal on the differents aspects of the Moroccan-Soviet cooperation in educational and cultural areas.

Veselov signed last week with El Fassi a new cooperation agreement between the two associations and attended several cultural activities sponsored by the two associations in Casablanca and Rabat. He also paid a visit to the town of Marrakesh.

Maritime Cooperation Agreement Signed With Turkey

Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 27 Mar 87 LD

[Text] Rabat, Mar 27 (MAP) — Turkish Minister of Transport and Communications Veysel Atasoy wound up Friday his four day visit to Morocco during which he signed with Moroccan Minister of Fisheries and Merchant Navy Bensalem Smili a cooperation agreement in fisheries and maritime transports. The agreement, which was signed Thursday afternoon, provides for a greater participation of the two countries fleets in the shipments of goods between Morocco and Turkey. It also provides for a closer collaboration among the two countries ship-owners and economic promoters, for cooperation in ship building and mutual assistance among the two countries' navigating ships.

SUDAN

Gunman Fires at Al-Mirghani's Escort Vehicle

EA281226 Khartoum SUNA in French 1536 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Mar (SUNA) — At dawn yesterday an unidentified person fired at a vehicle belonging to the special escort of Mr Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, the chairman of the State Council. The attack took place in Dari, a hilly region to the north of Khartoum. The escort was on its way to the capital of the northern region in order to join the chairman of the State Council, who is now on a visit to the northern region. This was reported by the Khartoum daily *Al-Usbu* today. According to the paper nobody was hurt. The police in the northern region began an immediate inquiry into the incident.

Police Capture Vehicles Loaded With Soviet Weapons

JN271815 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, March 27 (SUNA) — Police forces in western Sudan last Wednesday captured four land cruiser vehicles loaded with Russian made rifles Kalashnikov and machine guns, a Sudanese daily reported today. The daily *Al-Usbu'* said the arms belong to the Libyan backed forces of the Chadian leader Ibn Omar.

The arms [were] captured in the west Sudan border city of Al-Junynah. The paper asserted that the security committee of the city was studying the steps to be taken as regards the arms and the vehicles. Meanwhile the same paper has said that reports were circulated about bombardments of (Alttina) area on Chadian-Sudanese border. It did not specify when or who was the origin of the bombing.

The paper quoted its sources as saying the large numbers of Libyan troops are still stationed in Kutum northwest of the regional capital. Al-Fashir sources cited by the paper have affirmed that French reconnaisance flight over the Sudanese borders have stopped.

Official Denies French Air Raid Inside Country

JN291254 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum March 29 (SUNA) — French troops stationed in neighbouring Chad have never launched any air raid or bombing on any target inside the Sudanese territories as was carried by some local papers, a high ranking official source said to the daily *Al-Siyasah* published here today.

On the other hand the same source said that the Sudan initiative to solve the Chadian-Libyan conflict was being followed along the right avenue knowing that the political option for reaching an end to this conflict is the sole way in spite of military operation escalation by the two warring parties.

Also the source pointed out that the Sudan Armed Forces are capable of protecting the country's borders.

Al-Mahdi Addresses Assembly on Libyan Presence

JN301527 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Mar (SUNA) — Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and defense minister, has announced that the Libyan forces in the Darfur Region have been instructed to take orders from the Sudanese Armed Forces in the region. He said Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the Libyan forces, contacted him to stress Sudan's sound position and the Libyan Jamahiriyah's eagerness to maintain good relations with Sudan.

In a statement before the Constituent Assembly today on the latest developments in the security situation and the Darfur Region, Al-Mahdi said the Armed Forces were ordered to take the necessary measures to assemble the Libyan forces in one place, keep their weapons in the custody of the Sudanese Armed Forces, and evacuate them peacefully.

Regarding the damage caused to Sudan as a result of the entry of the Libyan forces, Al-Mahdi said he has no idea about the extent of the damage and that he instructed the military command in the region to send him a statement on the extent of the damage caused to citizens and the homeland, stressing that the Armed Forces have contained the situation and that the matter will be discussed with the approval of the parties concerned to prevent any friction.

He also pointed out Sudan is eager to contain the situation through understanding, not confrontation, adding that the Libyan forces had moved across the Sudanese-Chadian border, leaving some men as reserves, and that some other forces returned from Chad to Darfur and deployed in a disorderly manner. He added the Libyan forces were given 1 week to leave the country.

Regarding the importance of Goukouni Oueddei's role in solving the Chadian problem, Al-Mahdi said Goukouni has political weight and enjoys popular support in Chad, adding that Goukouni's positive contribution to national accord is necessary, stressing that the Chadian problem has caused damage to Sudan. He said: We can solve our domestic problems in all areas. If we abandon the Chadian issue we will be accused of neglecting our duties.

He added: If we fail to solve our problems, we will step down. He also welcomed any discussions on the issue during a closed-door meeting at the request of Nur al-Din Muhammad Ahmad, representative of Constituency 149, Darfur, because the statement did not discuss the Libyan issue in detail.

'New' Initiative on South To Be Announced in April

JN261119 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, March 26 (SUNA) — A new initiative to settle the south Sudan question will be announced next April, the prime minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said in a statement to the daily *Al-Siyasah*. The paper reported in an interview issued today that studies are currently being prepared in collaboration with peace ministry, by the government concerned bodies on the new initiative. Al-Mahdi was quoted as saying that "sooner or later Garang has to sit to the negotiating table." He pointed [out] that leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, John Garang was being supported by foreign sides who seek to hurt Sudan, but Sudan's retaliation is harder.

The paper on the other hand reported that new laws replacing those introduced by the ousted regime and known as the Shari'a Islamic laws would be replaced by new laws prior to 6 April, the date of the second anniversary of the April 1985 popular uprising that ousted the regime of Numayri.

USSR Trade Protocol Reportedly 'Not Frozen'

JN261358 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1023 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Mar (SUNA) — An economic source has told the newspaper *Al-Ayyam* that Sudanese economic policies in the foreign currency field obstruct the implementation of the Sudanese-USSR trade protocol and that the scarce resources of the committee handling the foreign currency flow in the free market hinder the implementation of any protocol that involves [words indistinct].

The economic source denied that the Sudanese-USSR trade protocol has been frozen. He, however, asserted that the Trade Ministry has not yet begun to implement its provisons. He said a few Sudanese importers submitted orders to import the commodities listed in the protocol. The source attributed this to [words indistinct].

It is noteworthy that the trade protocol was signed following [Prime Minister] Al-Mahdi's visit to the USSR last October. The sum allocated to each country in this agreement is $50 million.

National Party Leader, 2 Others Arrested

JN271207 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, March 27, SUNA — Leader of the Sudanese National Party Father Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush and two of his party's Politbureau were arrested yesterday and sent to Kober Jail, Sudan's largest prison, the daily *Al-Ayyam* published today said.

The daily added that Father Ghabbush and the other two are facing charges of illicit wealth, swindling and forgering [as received] while the investigation committee which set forth its case had finalized its task and relegated the outcome of the investigation to the court.

Father Ghabbush was accused of obtaining with the church's help a licence for importing clothes worth 12 million dollars to be distributed to the drought and desertification-affected people but he took the sum for his own interest, the daily said.

Trade Minister, Delegation Hold Talks in Turkey

For coverage of Trade Minister Yusuf Abu Harirah's visit to Turkey as head of the Sudanese delegation in the second round of meetings of the Turkish-Sudanese Joint Economic Committee, including his meeting with Turkish State Minister Celal Guzel, Public Works and Housing Minister Safa Giray, and Industry and Commerce Minister Cahit Aral, see the Turkey section of the 27 March Western Europe *Daily Report*.

TUNISIA

Mabrouk Condemns Iran's 'Intransigence' on War

JN280910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk has condemned the Iranian rulers' intransigence and insistence on war against Iraq. In a statement to Bagdhad's *Al-Jumhuriyah* newspaper published today, the Tunisian minister said the Iranian stand is a catastrophe for Islamic countries and that the insistence on continuing the war is considered a major part of the difficult and serious circumstances the Arab nation faces. He added that Arab countries are required to stand beside Iraq in its war against Iran. He said Arab solidarity is the successful beginning for tackling any Arab problem. Arab solidarity is needed to confront the Iranian war against Iraq, Mabrouk added.

Hedi Mabrouk noted that the U.S.-Israeli arms deal with Iran has exposed the Iranian rulers' stands and their contradiction with their proposals. He said: On one hand Iran says it works to liberate Jerusalem while on the other it takes arms from the Zionists. This is a blatant contradiction with all Iranian ideas.

The Tunisian foreign minister said: The Iranian rulers' cooperation with the Zionists contradicts with and opposes the logic of Islamic values. This matter cannot be accepted. Nobody can justify Islamic countries' cooperation with and support for the Zionist entity because the Zionist entity is the only beneficiary of the war's continuation.

Mabrouk urged world public opinion and all countries to put pressure on the Iranian rulers to stop the war because Iraq's cause is considered just, adding all countries should support the just cause represented by Iraq's stand.

The Tunisian minister also called for convening an Arab summit conference. He said: Tunisia welcomes the convening of an Arab summit. During the summit meetings, Arab leaders can exchange opinions to face problems and dangers threatening the Arab homeland, Mabrouk said.

Dailies Comment on Severance of Ties With Iran

LD271344 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] All today's dailies devote their front pages to the Tunisian Government's decision to sever relations with Iran.

L'Action stressed that it has become obvious from the preliminary facts, which emerged from the investigation carried out by the French authorities following the arrest of a terrorist group holding Tunisian passports, that the latter were in the service of Khomeyni, propagating his archaic doctrine to sow rancor and death. *L'Action* added: Bourguiba's people, by uniting around their president and the democratic and humane regime, will, with faith and determination, confront the evil forces which want to sink the country deep in the dark ages.

El-Amal pointed out that the Tunisian Government's decision to sever relations with Tehran was brought about by the effective involvement of the Iranian diplomatic mission in organizing contacts and carrying out activities detrimental to the stability of internal security, by tarnishing the intellectual environment, and by propagating doctrinal and ideological sedition, which were, at the same time, an endeavor to harm Tunisia's clear and strong relations with fraternal and friendly countries. The *El-Amal* editorial concluded: With this swift decision, stemming from a free and responsible political will, Tunisia, the leadership, the government, and the people, have affirmed their categorical rejection of all activities that are contrary to international laws and diplomatic norms, as well as the values regulating Bourguiba's view on proper international relations.

The *La Press* editorial asserted that the Tunisia's decsion to sever diplomatic relations with Iran was brought about by acts which contravened Tunisia's understanding of international relations. Tunisia has always been keen to see such relations based upon peace and cooperation within the framework of mutual respect. *La Press* stressed, in this context: Tunisia, as a country of law, tolerance, and openness, as well as a country believing that dialogue between civilizations should be conducted in an ethical manner, is determined to protect itself from any and all dangers, particularly when the danger is linked to terrorism and archaism. The paper also affirmed that Tunisia categorically rejects any interference in its affairs, will block any form of extremism, and will not tolerate anybody harming its reputation or impairing its sovereignty.

Le Temps pointed out that the Tunisian people, united in solidarity, vehemently reject any endeavor aimed at turning our country into an arena for maneuvers by the Iranian regime. It asserts that Tunisia, which has always worked for concord, friendship,and peaceful coexistence, will be rigorous with anyone who wants to wreck its security and threaten its stability. The paper stressed the need for all Tunisians to be vigilant in order to confront those who wish to see an unstable Tunisia.

The *El-Sabah* editorial affirmed that the Tunisian Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Iran was brought about by the latter's involvement in the recruitment of a number of Tunisians to carry out acts of terrorism. The paper pointed out that it is not possible for the nation to close one's eyes on those who are behind the operation of tarnishing our country's reputation. *El-Sabah* affirmed that Tunisia has no links with this strayed clique, and that our country is against all forms of terrorism; Islam, however, has never been the model which Tehran's leadership tries to promote.

President Bourguiba Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy

LD271442 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba today received Muhammad Abu al-Qasim al-Zuwayy, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy to the grand combatant, at the Republican Palace, Carthage. Also present were Prime Minister Rachid Sfar; Zine El Abedine Ben Ali, chief of the Presidential Office, minister of civil service and administrative reform, and interior minister; and Taib Shabani, secretary of state to the foreign minister.

ETHIOPIA

'Part One' of Mengistu Report to WPE Plenum

EA260936 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1735 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Part one of speech by Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, at the sixth plenary meeting of the WPE Central Committee in Addis Ababa on 23 March — recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear WPE Central Committee [word indistinct] members and [words indistinct]. The process of establishing the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE], which will have a special place in [words indistinct] is about to achieve its goal. [passage omitted]

It has been repeatedly pointed out that establishing the republic was one of the main aims of our revolution from the very time the feudal system was abolished. It is clear that the great efforts made and results achieved in the process of the revolution toward creating a new political system have both directly and indirectly contributed in various ways toward the struggle to establish the republic. We have thus transcended various stages and, now that the draft constitution prepared with the participation of the people has been approved by the people themselves through referendum, we are on the threshold of establishing the republic. The drafting and subsequent transformation of the constitution into a practical instrument for establishing the republic are the results of our revolution, the nature of the system we want to build, and our confidence in the people's determination.

It will be recalled that the documents on which this constitution is based were prepared with as much reference as possible to the people's psychology, desires, and lifestyles in line with our revolution's developmental trends and aims. The [words indistinct] that the constitution was drafted to reflect the [word indistinct] of the working people in terms of class, society, sex, profession, religion, outlook, and so on proves its popularity. The fact that the people discussed, enriched, and contributed to the constitution drafting commission's draft afforded it the democratic participation which has won admiration. The process enabled the Ethiopian people to gain a deep understanding of the draft. They performed the role expected of them by forwarding questions, holding discussions, and making suggestions. The referendum based on these accomplishments made its implementation successful and its result most glorious and historic.

The source of the working peoples' direct ownership of power which is to be brought into being by establishing the republic, is the people themselves. It is also the people themselves who constitute the guarantee for the successful implementation of the constitution and the laws to be enacted in accordance with it. This is not mere theory: The people's participation in the various achievements of the revolutionary years has proved that the people are the dynamo of the revolution, the primary owners of the achievements and the beneficiaries of the results. The need to have the constitution approved by referendum was also [words indistinct] and a result of the revolutionary process. Inasmuch as the working people participated in the winning of victories to the point of giving up their lives during the process of realizing the revolution's basic aims, the preparation of the constitution from beginning to end through their [word indistinct] and referendum is also the result of 12 years of struggle.

The referendum was held successfully and achieved a positive result at a time when antipeople and counterrevolutionary forces were doing their best to obstruct its implementation and to disseminate malicious propaganda to distort the people's efforts. It is in the context of all these angles that we must assess the referendum and its result. The accomplishment of [word indistinct] is also the result of the working people's high level of awareness. It is an historic victory which has opened a new chapter of struggle and proved that a people acting on the basis of correct understanding and consciousness cannot be diverted from making correct decisions.

Dear comrades, as the Referendum Commission's [words indistinct] explained in detail, great efforts were made to hold the referendum according to [word indistinct] and to enable the people properly to exercise their rights. Considering our country's objective reality, that is our economic and social developmental stage, it is clear that the work of organization, distribution, education, and propaganda was not easy and demanded great effort. The satisfactory result is indicative of the organizing ability of our party and the revolutionary government and the development of their leadership roles. The struggle demanded and the various efforts made to accomplish this task were described in detail in the commission's central report nationwide, so I shall not go into detail on this again.

As I present the commission's resolution instructing me to present the referendum result to our Central Committee, I wish on behalf of our party's Central Committee to congratulate the true sons of the people who overcame the various problems affecting the successful holding of the referendum and achieved excellent results, the members of the Referendum Commission and in general all the friends of the people who participated unreservedly in a revolutionary and patriotic spirit. [applause] [passage omitted]

These and many other factors which prove the people's confidence our party and the revolutionary government greatly contributed toward bringing about greater popular participation in the referendum and its successful result. In this respect, the number of voters registered for the referendum exceeded by 26 percent the number of people who participated in the debates. This represents a very high proportion of participation by any standard. The [word indistinct] was also the result of our people's consciousness and the great efforts they made. [passage omitted]

Dear comrades, popular participation should not be assessed by its physical dimensions alone. The people's spirit of participation in the registration and voting, their contribution to the success of the process through their various organizations and their presence at the polling stations in large numbers before 0600 on voting day and completing the voting with great discipline before the deadline, reflected their feeling of being the owners of the revolution and the constitution. The working people of Ethiopia clearly demonstrated their attitude during the process of drafting and approving the constitution. The Constitution Referendum

Commission's report states that it was in the context of this great and active participation that the people voted. Of those who voted, 81 percent accepted, 18 percent rejected, and about 1 percent spoiled their ballots which were then destroyed [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

As stated in the preamble to the constitution: We, the working people of Ethiopia, take our destiny into our own hands and through the referendum held on 1 February 1987, we have approved the supreme law of the country, the constitution through which the PDRE is to be established and administered and which guarantees the unity of our country and the equality of nationalities, which preserves our basic freedoms and rights and defines our obligations, which lays a strong foundation for the establishment and construction of socialism, and which enables us to contribute to world peace, justice, democracy, and social development. The people have thus clearly decided the above. [applause] Our party accepts the supreme decision of the people with great respect and will make all-out efforts to implement it. It will struggle to the end. Our party again pledges to the broad masses of Ethiopia that it will strive for the implementation of the constitution. [applause]

Comrades, the ratification of the constitution by referendum has brought us close to the establishment of the republic. In this respect, our remaining tasks will be to prepare conditions under which the people will consolidate their direct ownership of state power. In this respect, of the tasks facing us, priority will be given to completing preparations for holding elections of members of the National Assembly and holding the elections themselves, as defined in the constitution. Through the election of members of the National Assembly, the working people will choose their representatives who will assume the people's constitutional powers and implement them. This is a decisive task whereby the people will set up the National Assembly which is the highest manifestation of their ownership of power. [passage omitted]

Comrades, it is very clear that securing the existence of the PDRE will hold the highest place in the age-old history of our country. As we have tried repeatedly to explain, the formation of the republic, its success and outcome will also be determined by the victories attained in various spheres of struggle. The efforts made and the progress achieved in the economic sphere in particular is crucial. In line with the objective conditions of our country, the agricultural sector is the main focus of attention due to the contribution it makes. The development of this sector is based totally on natural conditions owing to the level of development reached by our country. Consequently, our economic situation is determined mainly by changing climatic conditions at various times. Accordingly, in 1985-86, since the short and long rains were closer to normal climatic conditions, the annual agricultural production showed a greater increase.

When we assess our economic conditions, we can see clearly that the general improvement in our economy coincides with the improvement in climatic conditions. Since climatic conditions are still irregular this year as well, about 2.5 million of our compatriots need assistance from the government. About 11 million people received assistance in 1984-85, while more than 6 million received assistance last year. This shows how our situation has improved. This year's aid requirement is mainly for those engaged in production but not yet able to obtain adequate yields for their yearly consumption which therefore requires supplementing. Today, no compatriots in any part of our country are receiving assistance in rehabilitation centers divorced from production activities as a result of natural disasters. On the other hand, we are correctly bringing up several thousand children who lost their parents in the natural disasters of 1983-84. [passage omitted]

Comrades, as I have tried to explain on various occasions, drought is a natural phenomenon which has been experienced and will be experienced by any society or country at any stage of development as a result of changes in world climatic conditions. Drought resulting fron natural causes like the failure of one or two rainy seasons exposes the whole of society in countries at a lower stage of development to a general famine. In other words, the changes in climate result in general famine for the poor peasantry of backward countries. The struggle to be free of natural problems is part and parcel of the general struggle to be free from backwardness.

In order to achieve this, in the national 3-year action plan, special attention has been given to speeding up the development of the agricultural sector to change this situation. Self-sufficiency in food is to be given priority to create a concrete basis for speeding up the development of the agricultural sector. The program for achieving self-sufficiency in food crops in a short period of time differs from our earlier efforts because it focuses on our country producing a limited surplus to achieve an improved output within the framework of our limited capacities.

The action plan, which is designed to be extended to the districts and development infrastructures, is closer to transforming the rural areas, production, and [word indistinct] compared with the programs worked out so far. The program is unique not only because intensive support is given to the peasantry, but also because it facilitates general changes in his social life. In the last 6 months, major work has been carried out starting from the center to the districts identified for development to make the necessary advance preparations to ensure the success of the action plan's goals. [passage omitted] The recruitment of experts at the district level who are versed in rural development skills, who are efficient and capable of leading the peasantry — which is crucial to the implementation of the action plan — has been given necessary attention since the preparation of the plan.

Accordingly, in the last 6 months, 2,130 rural agricultural development workers and experts were transferred from various divisions and assigned to the 148 districts identified for the implementation of the 1986-87 action plan in order to strengthen the auxiliary services in the areas. In line with the plan, it was possible to assign one expert to every 1,300 peasants in the districts. The other areas which were given greater emphasis to increase food crop production were fertilizers, insecticides, medicines, selected seeds, and other technological inputs [passage indistinct]

It has been possible to import 800,000 quintals of fertilizer into the country [words indistinct] and 300,000 quintals of fertilizer have been distributed to area peasants associations. The distribution of hybrid crops and pesticides have gone according to plan.

In line with our plan to intensify the use of modern production tools in the rural areas, three additional tractor (?depots) have been set up this year in the (?surplus producing) districts of Arsi, Gojam, and [name indistinct] capable of [word indistinct]. Necessary measures have also been taken by providing those set up over the past few years with additional manpower, tractors, and spare parts. In addition, notable efforts have been made to supply the farmer with corn (?shucking) machines, [words indistinct], improved ploughs, and similar technological inputs. The results of efforts made to provide the farmer with expertise and technological (?assistance) on time, according to the programme we have drafted to achieve food self-sufficiency, are encouraging.

However, as we have often stated, the positive results of the assistance given by the government depend on the discipline, dedication, and efforts of the farmer himself. [sentence indistinct]. In this respect, we are confident that all those zonal organs concerned with the plan will jointly formulate a program that will enable them to implement it practically, and embark upon this program. The statistics we have received from the zones indicate this.

In view of the current climatic conditions, we find it necessary to issue some supplementary suggestions. We know that very favorable short rains have occurred this year for the first time in 4 years. Our correct utilization of these favorable short rains is crucial. As shown by meteorological data, the amount of daily rainfall this year is extremely high [passage indistinct]. The amount of rainfall throughout most of the districts [words indistinct] parts of the country is more than (?average) and has doubled, particularly in some areas of the drought-stricken parts of Tigrai, Welo, and northern Shewa. According to meteorological forecasts, the short rainy season is expected to extend to the end of May.

The current short rains, particularly in Tigrai, Welo, and Shewa have been reliable; hence, we should make strenous efforts to make proper use of this advantageous situation. Unreserved efforts have to be made, particularly in those areas repeatedly hit by drought, to preserve and collect this rainfall so that it does not go to waste. As it is not possible to be sure of a good harvest in the above-mentioned areas, it might be disadvantageous to formulate programs for the farmers to harvest on a large scale. It is clear that it is necessary to establish a presence among farmers and give them assistance so as to make it possible to capitalize on the current favourable climatic conditions and produce a harvest better than the current one.

The first step in all our efforts is ensuring that the farmers receive all the services necessary for increasing their production on time. From now on, the decisive factor is to ensure that all the tasks to be completed for higher production are completed at all levels, starting with land preparation. We realize that this is not an easy task. We have to understand that the farmer has to raise his level of consciousness and organization through producers' cooperatives, plan his production [word indistinct] and systematically oversee its implementation. Until the farmer is capable of this, there is no alternative to close follow ups and guidance by us. Therefore, I would like, at this juncture, to remind all of us who have responsibilities in the ongoing construction process to implement the program and change the ugly face of rural Ethiopia, for which the people are directly relying on us.

Dear comrades, we should recall that the 10-year development plan, is planned to accelerate rural development, improve the farmers livelihood, collectivize the farmers into villages, and hence modernize the farmers production and style of life. The road construction program we have embarked upon since last year in line with this program is being systematically carried out this year.

Since villagization work was initiated last year, work has started on 11,460 villages, 5,116 of which had been completed as of 7 February 1987. In these villages, a total of 1,138,265 houses, 42,304 kitchens, and 125,655 toilets have been built. There are 1,082,466 heads of families collectivized in the villages while the population numbers 5,725,530. Accordingly, the number of people who are collectivized in villages constitutes 15.4 percent of the total rural population. This is a major historic accomplishment when seen in relation to the time required to organize and collectivize this number of people.

The fact that agricultural production has shown a substantial increase in the same year as this number of people have been collectivized in villages is an education to all those interested in the popular nature and implementation of our program. The villagization program has not been planned or implemented without taking into account the harvesting period as reactionaries have alleged. The villagization program is conducted after the farmer has collected his harvest. In addition, it takes into consideration the (?time) he needs for his organizational and other social obligations.

The villagization program is part of our rural development strategy and is an intrinsic part of our rural development. Hence we understand that for this program to succeed, it is essential to provide the farmer with the economic and social services necessary to transform his life. In this respect, since last year, we have planned in our annual plan to provide firstly the farmers collectivized in villages with educational facilities, health care, and running water. Facilities are not provided by the government alone, as reactionaries are trying to insinuate, but are organized with the participation of the farmer himself.

A clear weakness in our services is in the supply of flour mills and electricity services in particular. These services and the expansion of the rural roads study are to be integrated with the villagization program. The aim of the villagization program is mainly to alleviate the burdens of the rural people. Theprogram will be extended together with the expansion of social and economic services. In order to change the face of rural Ethiopia, one of the political aims of the villagization program is to make the distribution of people compatible with that of natural resources. We must take the necessary precautions so that the natural resources of the highland areas of our country do not become more devastated than they are now. As we see it, the devastation of the forest, soil and water resources in Eritrea, Tigrai, Welo, Gondar and northern Shewa compared to the number of the people is getting worse instead of improving. The devastation of natural resources in the northern part of our country seems to have been extended to the remaining parts of

Shewa, Gojjam Bale and other areas in a short period of time. If the devastation of our natural resources continues in this way, it is easy to see the general danger facing our country in 20 or 30 years time, or even less than that.

The forest, which used to cover 40 percent of the total area of the country, covers no more than 4 percent today. It is difficult to explain to everyone properly and briefly the dangers of the devastation of the forest resources of the country and its impact on the soil and water resources and on climatic conditions in general. It is impossible to satisfy our need for wood which we require for the production of agricultural implements and for cooking, let alone for the production of beds, chairs, tables, construction of houses, and the like.

And now, if we look at the issue in line with the increasing population, it is possible to understand the crucial situation we are in. It has become clear to most of our people that the depletion of our forest wealth is crucial. One of the solutions for the protection and preservation of the country's forest wealth is to have systematic tree-planting throughout the country. It is important to increase our forest wealth from the current 4 percent to 20 percent by removing people from mountainous areas, which are not favorable for farming, to lowlands and reforest the mountains. Research into this matter shows that it is necessary to remove at least 7 million people from the mountainous areas of the country. It is possible to easily understand from this data the necessity of the policy of coordinating the distribution of population vis-a-vis natural wealth.

In short, the resettlement program aimed at alleviating the damage to the natural wealth of our country's highly populated areas will not only save the lives of individuals but also that of the country. I will repeat, in short, the resettlement program aimed at alleviating the damage on the natural wealth of our country's highly-populated areas will not only save the lives of people but also that of the country. In this respect, necessary attention will be given to areas repeatedly hit by drought in balancing the number of people with the natural resources through the resettlement program.

In this respect, we have learned a lot from our past experience in directing this program. Every effort will be made, from motivatingthe settlers to selecting suitable areas. Since it is not possible to direct this vast and continuous program through temporary committees and campaigns, a special government institution will be set up next year to lead the resettlement program in a coordinated manner.

The other important issue that we have learned from our past 2 years' experience is that settlers were able to satisfy their food needs for themselves and their families from half a hectare of land. Hence, it is necessary for them to produce cash crops such as cotton, sesame, groundnuts, peanuts, etc, from the collective farms so as to satisfy their other needs through modern farming tools and technology. Hence the production of industrial products by most of the settlers' farms has not only enabled settlers to be fully self-sufficient, it also contributes to the enhancement of the countrys' economic development. Even though this year's plan for the resettlement farms has been set up along this line, the proper direction and continuous efforts by our party secretaries in those areas will have a greater contribution in realizing this objective.

The other agricultural economic sector which is given attention is the expansion of state farms. The productivity of the state farms was not as it was expected [words indistinct]. Recently, and with the help of experience, the productivity of state farms has shown improvement.

In particular, the productivity of state farms in the last 2 years was substantial. The total area of ploughed land in the past years and this year is only 201,000 hectares. last year's state farm production was recorded as 4.1 million quintals, while this year's production is recorded as 5 million quintals. This year's state farm productivity increase of 22 percent from that of last year without the increase in acreage shows the tangible increase in the productivity of state farms.

If we look at some detailed statistics, it is possible to understand that this year's state farm activities have recorded a better result than before. Last year's state farm corn production was an average of 25 quintals per hectare, while this year's production has gone up to 30 quintals. Likewise, last year's wheat production was an average of 15 quintals per hectare, while this year's has gone up to 20 quintals per hectare. The production of barley has increased from 16 quintals per hectare to 17.2 quintals. The production of sorghum has increased to 9.1 quintals from 5.1 quintals. This shows that state farms have started solving their problems, which arose from a lack of working method and technological use.

Comrades: As I pointed out earlier, the industrial sector of the economy, which is the recipient of raw materials from the agricultural sector, has recorded growth in the first half of this year compared to that of last year. This is because of the improved agricultural production.

In this respect, the productivity of corporations and share companies under the Ministry of Industry is 4 percent higher this year than at the same time last year. When looked at in line with the assessment of the first 6 months of 1986-87, the industrial sector of the economy has met its target by 94 percent. In line with the aim of increasing the productive capacity of the industrial sector of the economy, it was planned that 34 new factories and 13 existing ones, totaling 47 projects, would start this year.

But the activities of the first 6 months were not satisfactory. Even though it is known that there were some problems that caused the slowing down of the implementation of the projects, it is expected that the next 6 months will show a better implementation of projects through the solution of problems. Since the slowing down of the implementation of planned projects will reduce our scope for improving our development, concerned bodies should make all possible efforts and pay attention to the proper implementation of these projects.

Assessing the activities of the industrial sector, its work has an encouraging aspect, yet, we must not forget that this sector of the economy needs to be restructured in a new way.

The industrial sector of the economy demands more than anything else greater attention for its proper restructuring, since it can make a contribution to the development of the agricultural sector and other sectors of the economy. Hence, it has become evident that it is of vital importance to formulate a plan not only to develop the existing small industrial sector of the economy but also to set up a plan that enhances the foundation for the construction of a socialist economy.

The other sector of the economy which is the basis for the building of heavy industries and the secured enhancement of the country's economic development, and which needs greater attention, is that of mineral and energy resources. In this respect, among those areas which will be given greater attention in the 3-year intermediate plan are the exploration of oil and natural gas, exploitation of gold, iron ore mining, exploitation of soda ash [passage indistinct] according to assessments from a 70 square km natural gas exploration study, the deposits of natural gas in our country will increase in line with the amount of land covered in the exploration. The deposit we know about at present is said to be a substantial amount and is expected to satisfy not only local needs and demand but is also enough for export purposes for a long time and has economic importance for our country.

The other economic sector that is hoped to enhance the country's economy is the mining sector and the vast gold deposit found in [word indistinct] Injemjem Province of Sidamo Region.

[Passage indistinct] it is clear that the success of the exploration and study of mineral ores in our country is one of the strongest foundations for the enhancement of our economic development. The study that has been carried out in this respect is very encouraging and more attention should be given to the implementation of this project.

The development of soda ash is an essential project that will enable us not only to recover the foreign exchange that we are investing in it, but we might even earn some foreign exchange from it in a short time. In the long term, it will be possible to produce more than 200,000 tons of soda ash for export trade and earn a huge sum of foreign exchange. Even though the implementation of the project is going according to plan, it requires closer attention this year so that production can start as planned.

As regards to the Melka Wakena hydroelectric project, the preparatory work has been completed in the first quarter of the first year, the major construction work of the project, that is the excavation, laying of concrete [words indistinct]. Since the work of the preconstruction is underway, it is expected that in the next 6 months, by enhancing the construction work, it will be possible to improve implementation of the construction work of the dam. It is not difficult to understand that the hydroelectric project, which is among the mining sector of the economy, is in the process of being transformed into a stage where it will give a tangible contribution to the enhancement of the country's economy. It must be the obligation of all to try and find speedy solutions to the problems facing the development of this sector of the economy so as to realize our hopes.

Comrades, together with the growth of the agricultural sector of the economy, a major change is seen in the [word indistinct] volume of trade within the country. The amount of grain stock-piled by the Agricultural Produce Marketing Organization reached 404 million quintals by the end of February. This is an amount unprecedented in the organization's history. It is estimated that if the supply and purchasing of grain continues in this manner, the organization will be in possession of over 5 million quintals. This year will be the first time that this amount of grain has been stockpiled in government hands by June. It is clear that the basis for the increase in the supply of grain within the country is due to the productive growth of the agricultural sector.

It must be noted that the Agricultural Produce Marketing Organization has been able to collect this volume of grain due to its purchasing efforts and improvements in its mode of operation.

The State Grain Marketing Organization must be commended for being able to store this large amount of grain through activities embarked upon in the course of a year. The current major problem is the limited amount of storage facilities as it has not been possible to proportionally increase the organization's storage facilities. Two years ago our urgent problem was supplying the grain itself. The fact that we are today free of this problem and have reached the stage of facing limited storage facilities is a step forward in itself. I do not believe it is impossible or beyond our ability to solve the storage problem. If we embark on intensive activities over the next 3 and 4 months through our committee, it will be possible to alleviate a major portion of the problem before the advent of the long rains.

Notable work has been done in coordinating and distributing industrial products. It is clear that the decision to allot the work of distributing commodities produced under the Ministry of Industry to the Ministry of Internal Trade has put a heavy burden on the distribution corporation. Even so, it is encouraging to note that the purchasing and selling plans of the corporation have been 90 and 96 percent successful respectively. The role of state commercial organs has grown in the distribution of grain and industrial products. Hence, retail prices throughout Addis Ababa have decreased by 5.3 percent, while the price of grain has decreased by 32 percent from 27 january 1986 to 27 January 1987.

The fact that we are discussing the encouraging trend in the distribution of grain and industrial products does not mean that problems in the commercial sector have been totally eradicated. The numbers of branches of state commercial institutions are limited. It is clear that since they have been given a major role in the retailing sector, there are imbalances in the distribution of commodities, and there are other complex problems as well. In order to give these problems a permanent solution, it is necessary to strengthen state commercial organizations and their share of wholesale trade, while society has to be organized into consumer cooperative associations so as to enable them to solve problems by themselves. In this regard, directives facilitating the establishment of consumer cooperative associations have been prepared and will soon be implemented.

Hand in hand with the organization of these associations, the establishment of a people's system, through which these complex operational problems related to the commercial sector will be dealt with, is today on the correct path.

The serious economic problem that has occurred this year is an unexpected change in our internal development. The fruits of our efforts as regards foreign trade are limited by events on the international market, which is beyond our control. Though fluctuations are common in this market, lately prices of raw materials have mainly been declining. In particular, events of the past few years have increasingly hurt countries that supply raw materials.

Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that we have reached a stage where we cannot depend on this market when drawing up our development plans. Since over 90 percent of our exports are agricultural products, we have been victims of the fluctuations in the international market. The fall in the price of coffee since the beginning of the year has severely affected our ability to earn foreign exchange, and thus government revenue. We know that coffee on the average earns over 50 percent of our country's foreign exchange. Coffee earns 10 percent of total annual income. No less than 5 percent of the people earn their living through coffee. The price of coffee, which was 260 U.S. cents per pound, has declined to 106 cents. It is possible to see from the figures I have given the effect of this on the economy.

In view of the daily fluctuations on the international market it is hard to believe that the above-mentioned price itself will remain stable. While our ability to earn foreign exchange is reduced, on the other hand it is estimated that the price of petroleum will rise from $14 to $18 per barrel this year. As indicated by market indexes, the price of petroleum will reach $20 per barrel over the next 6 months. Due to these and other factors, it is estimated that the prices of industrial consumer commodities wil rise by 17.5 percent in 1987. Hence, our exports are decreasing while our import expenses are rising; we will have to be very careful and strive harder to offset the negative effects on our economy. We have to strive harder, in particular, to overcome the negative effects of the decline in the price of coffee by producing more coffee and other export commodities.

Comrades, it is clear that among the problems facing urban residents, the urgent one is the shortage of housing. Hence, it is necessary for us to discuss the measures that should be taken to improve the implementation of the ongoing programs designed to alleviate this problem. It is a fact that alleviating and eradicating the housing problem is dependent upon the growth of material production and in particular on the growth of the construction industry. In this regard, priority emphasis has been laid on taking step-by-step policy measures in order to create suitable conditions for efforts to be made by the government, associations, and individuals to solve this problem.

In this regard, the urban housing policy issued in the middle of last year has enabled us to define standards of urban housing which take into consideration the country's economic development level and society's income. The groundwork has been laid to intensify the participation of housing construction workers' cooperative associations, the government, urban residents' associations, and individuals. According to the policy, numerous steps have been taken to increase government assistance to housing construction cooperative workers' associations and to facilitate their construction work so as to promote their role in this sphere. Among the measures taken, I think it is necessary to primarily point out the bank loan policy whereby urban residents can acquire bank loans at a very low interest rate and payable over a long period of time.

The Ministry of Urban Housing and Development, which is the principal organ in the implementation of the urban housing policy, is being organized in a manner conducive to the implementation of the urban housing policy. In addition to the assistance being given to urban residents in their efforts to establish housing construction cooperative workers' associations and to enable them to gain experience, the directive issued on organizing the cooperatives has been amended in a manner that will improve efficiency. In the activities embarked upon so far regarding housing construction, 591 associations with 15,097 members have been organized in Addis Ababa alone, while 343 associations with 11,792 members are in the process of being organized.

In 15 towns of nine regions, 137 associations with 3,142 members have been organized, and 124 associations with 2,480 members are in the process of being organized. When these figures are compared to the number of houses built over the last 10 years, which do not number over 13,000, we are able to understand the extent to which the policy has encouraged society to become owners of their own houses.

Among the organized associations, 32 of those in Addis Ababa have started construction work, of which 11 have taken out bank loans. Of the associations organized in Asmera, 31 have begun work, of which nine have taken out bank loans. Under the construction activities underway in Addis Ababa, internal roads have been opened up in 25 associations. The work of laying down major water pipelines is proceeding in a satisfactory manner. The preparations necessary to lay down electric power lines for the associations have been completed.

The crucial problem at present is the shortage of building materials. With the aim of solving this crucial problem, a list of vital building materials has been prepared and passed to the building material supply office: The necessary foreign exchange has been allocated for this purpose. The shortage of bricks occured at a time when the activities of the association was at its peak, and it was partly able to solve the shortage by establishing a temporary block producing station. It is planned that the producing stations should be equipped with producing tools so as to strengthen their production capacity.

Even though the support given to housing construction workers'cooperative associations up to now is encouraging, it is necessary to further strengthen the support in a coordinated manner. It has become evident that there is a weakness in giving support without coordination. Even though the housing problem is dependent upon the situation of the economy, it calls for the coordinated and concerted effort of the people and concerned departments. The concerned departments should prepare themselves in advance by proper planning as to what is expected of their departments to properly overcome their responsibilities. One of the necessary issues that should be looked at is the preparation of action plans for the various departments responsible for housing so as to carry out coordinated implementation of their projects. This should be reflected and ensured in the planning and budgeting of the concerned departments.

If this activity is carried out in full, it will bring problems in the construction of houses. Therefore, all departments who are responsible for implementing the urban housing policy should create the necessary working relation and carry out their individual and collective responsibilities.

In general, to implement the housing policy, which is aimed at solving the major problems of the country, the housing problem for which the people are eagerly awaiting a solution, the following is expected from those concerned. First, the Ministry of Housing and Town Planning and its departments should work, coordinate, direct, and implement the policy with hard work and a sense of responsibility. Two, banks are expected to avoid the complex system of bureaucracy, which takes up a lot of workers' time, and provide fast and efficient service.

Departments that have organs, bodies, and members of housing construction workers' associations under them should not neglect the issue by saying that this is a workers issue and does not concern us. They should participate fully, and support and encourage the workers for this sector is one part of nation-building. As it has been seen in other public organizations, any member who for personal gain is found carrying out any activity that hinders the development process and discourages members, will face stern action. Members are expected to serve the associations with fairness and hard work.

Dear comrades, I have tried to brief you on the major activities carried out in our national economy's principal sectors and problems faced in the lat 6 months. In general, the economic situation has shown progress and improvement, but since loans secured through foreign trade have an impact on our development, I have tried to point out that it needs greater activity to change this trend. Even though the situation we are in today is very encouraging in many ways, when compared to the development of the last two years, the weakness seen in the implementation of projects cannot pass by unnoticed.

SOMALIA

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy 29 Mar

EA291401 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpt] President Mohamed Siad Barre received today at the Presidency in Mogadishu the Libyan delegation led by 'Umar Muhammad Salim Iskhal, deputy chairman of Libya's People's Congress. During a courtesy call on the president, the delegation delivered to Challe Siad a message from Libyan Head of State Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on ways of strengthening relations between the SDR and Libya. Challe Siad and Mr Iskhal discussed bilateral relations and the crisis facing the Arab world and the world at large. SDR President Mohammed Siad Marre requested the head of the Libyan delegation to convey his greetings and those of the Somali people to Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the people of Libya. [passage omitted]

National Movement Approves 'Constitution'

EA291227 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

["Fighters' Constitution" approved by the Somali National Movement; date and place not given – read by announcer; all numbering of points as heard]

[Excerpts] Part I: General Ideology [subhead]

Article 1. The constitution is based on Islamic Shari'a.

Article 2. Laws applied by the organization are derived from the fighters' constitution.

Article 3. Somali customary law is a source of law, but if it contradicts [word indistinct] Shari'a it is null and void.

Article 4. The name of the organization shall be the Somali National Movement. [SNM]

Article 5. The SNM is a political organization that believes in toppling the fascist regime in Somalia by people's war.

Article 6. The SNM believes in liberating all Somalia and opposes any division of the country into regions or ministates that are detrimental to the general unity of the country.

Article 7. The SNM believes in individual guilt. There shall be no mass punishment among the Somali people. Punishment comes after guilt has been proved in a court of law.

Article 8. Consensus shall be the basis of the organization's administration and planning at all levels.

Article 9. Personality cults and dictatorship are prohibited within the organization. They run counter to consensus in which the organization believes.

Article 10. The flag of the organization is composed of three horizontal bands colored as follows: red on top, white in the middle and green at the bottom. In the middle of the white color is written in black Arabic script: There is no God but God and Muhammad is his prophet.

Article 11. The insignia of the organization is as follows: a rising sun, star, and ox against a blue background in a white surround, with the words God [word indistinct] SNM, superimposed.

Article 12. The headquarters of the organization shall be at a secret location inside Somalia.

Article 13. The official languages of the organization are Somali and Arabic.

Article 14. The SNM is a political organization that believes in respect for human rights as stipulated in the UN Human Rights Charter.

Article 15. The SNM is fighting to replace the present regime with a democratic system in which the people will decide their fate through consensus. [passage omitted]

Part II: Organization [subhead]

Article 37. The SNM is composed of:

A. Cells

B. Branches

C. Bases

D. The General Assembly

e. The Central Committee

F. The Executive Committee

Article 38. The Cell

A. The cell is the smallest unit of the organization and operates in small centers inside the country.

B. The responsibility of the cell is to organize people while propagating the organization's program and objectives, which call on the people to participate in the struggle.

C. Every cell is responsible for collecting funds in its area. It assists operations taking place in the area.

D. Cell membership is secret. Every cell is led by an individual assisted by others in whom he has confidence.

E. The leaders of cells are appointed by branch committees [word indistinct].

Article 39. The Branch

A. The branches shall operate within large centers inside the country and among Somali communities abroad.

B. Branches shall disseminate the political program, social program, and the organization's objectives throughout their areas of responsibility.

C. The branch shall coordinate funds collected by cells and shall help the organization carry out operations in their areas.

D. Members of the branch committee shall be elected by members of the area branch. However, if for security reasons the elections cannot be held, then the Executive Committee of the organization shall apoint them.

E. The branch committee is composed of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and members.

Article 40. The Base

A. The base is the fighters' headquarters and is the most important headquarters of the organization.

B. Fighting policy will be decided by the base. The fighters' code of conduct shall be applied here.

C. The locations and number of bases shall depend on fighting strategy and experience.

D. The base is administered by a committee of fighters.

Article 41. The General Assembly

Membership in the General Assembly is decided by the Central Committee. The assembly is composed of:

A. Members of the Central Committee

B. Delegates from branches

C. Delegates from bases

D. Delegates from Central Committee departments, administration offices, and unit commands.

Article 42. The Structure of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall have the following structure:

A. A chairman, first deputy chairman, second deputy chairman and a secretariat.

B. The chairman of the General Assembly shall be elected by the General Assembly.

C. The two deputy chairmen shall be elected by the General Assembly.

D. The second deputy chairman is elected after the first one.

E. The members of the Secretariat of the General Assembly shall be chosen by the chairman and his deputies, who shall select from lists submitted by knowledgeable people.

F. The chairman shall nominate the members of the Secretariat [word indistinct]

Article 43. Ordinary General Assembly Meetings and Extraordinary Meetings

There shall be ordinary meetings and extraordinary meetings.

A. The General Assembly meeting shall be held once every 3 years. If two-thirds of the Central Committee agree, it can be delayed for a maximum of 6 months at difficult times provided the delay is in the interests of the organization.

B. The chairman shall inform the Central Committee of the venue and time of the General Assembly meeting if this is not detrimental to the security of the organization.

C. The chairman shall call an extraordinary meeting if the Executive Committee asks for such meeting and if the request is approved by a majority vote of the Central Committee.

D. The Central Committee can propose an extraordinary meeting. Such a proposal can be accepted by the chairman provided it is passed by a two-thirds majority.

E. Delegates to the extraordinary meeting shall be those who attended the last ordinary General Assembly meeting.

F. There shall be no change in membership during the period between the two meetings.

Article 44. Election of Departments

The General Assembly elects the following officials:

A. A chairman, by a show of hands

B. Individual members of the Central Committee, by majority vote

Article 45. Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest body of the organization. It has the power:

A. To use all the resources of the organization

B. To decide the fighting strategy

C. To shape political ideology and declare the aspirations of the organization

D. To decide and proclaim the economic, social and security policies of the organization

E. To approve changes and additions to the constitution and other laws of the organization

F. To reorganize the structure of the organization

G. To decide on dissolution or merger of the SNM with other organizations

H. To coordinate and delegate powers to other departments of the organization.

Article 46. The Central Committee

The Central Committee shall be composed of 56 [number as heard] members including

A. 45 full members, 6 of whom are members of external branches,

B. 10 ten candidate members.

Article 47. Membership of the Central Committee

A. the 10 candidate members shall be proposed by the Executive Committee and shall be approved by the Central Committee on a majority vote.

B. The names of the 45 full members shall be read to the General Assembly by the chairman following their election.

Article 48. Ordinary meetings of the Central Committee shall be held once every 6 months, but extraordinary meetings can be held whenever required.

C. Central Committee meetings shall be chaired by the chairman.

D. The Central Committee shall have a Secretariat led by an elected member of the Central Committee.

E. The chairman shall submit to the Central Committee proposals and resolutions of the Executive Committee and shall be the coordinator of the duties of the Central Committee, as decided by the Executive Committee.

Article 49. The Central Committee shall elect a permanent committee or permanent committees.

Article 50. The Work of the Central Committee

The committee uses the powers devolved to it by the General Assembly in the period between assembly sessions.

A. It adopts all rules and regulations relating to the many duties of the organization except for the constitution and articles of the constitution unless it is given power to do so.

B. It supervises and implements policies on strategic fighting and other programs decided by the General Assembly.

C. It leads and oversees all combat.

D. It plans ways of seeking help, arms and international popular support for the objectives of the organization.

F. It supervises the duties of the organization.

Article 51. The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of

A. A chairman

B. Secretaries

C. The chairman shall be elected by the General Assembly.

D. The secretaries shall be appointed by the chairman and approved by the Central Committee.

Article 52. Duties of the Executive Committee

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be:

A. Presentation of ideas to the organization's political leadership and application of those ideas

B. Day-to-day operation of the organization and implementation of policy, combat operations, and social plans decided by the assembly, as well as guidelines set by the Central Committee

C. Formulation of the organization's external policy vis-a-vis other opposition forces in Somalia

D. Checking that fighting methods and political objectives are consistent with each other

E. Administration of the organization

F. Managing the organization's finances and reporting regularly to the Central Committee or any other authority it appoints.

Article 53. Powers of the Chairman of the Organization

A. The chairman is in charge of the organization's policies and administration.

B. He has the power to propose and implement changes to the administration of the organization.

C. He has the power to appoint the Executive Committee, subject to approval by the Central Committee, and to demote no more than one member of the Executive Committee, pending the next Central Committee meeting.

D. He has the power to appoint and remove the attorney general and auditor general with the approval of the Central Committee.

E. The chairman of the organization cannot be arrested while still in office. [passage omitted on attorney general and auditor general]

CHAD

FANT on Prisoners, Materiel Taken in Faya-Largeau

AB302026 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1849 GMT 30 Mar 87

[FANT High Command Communique No 61 issued in Ndjamena on 30 March]

[Text] In our communique of 27 March 1987 [Communique No 59, we announced the fall of Faya-Largeau, capital of the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region. Since that memorable day, this town has been under the complete control of the government forces. On the same occasion, we promised you the tally. A promise is a promise, and here are the details:

Enemy side: 274 defected; 16 Libyans taken prisoner.

Equipment captured: 11 T-55 tanks; 7 BMP's; 6 jeeps equipped with 106-mm guns; 66 heavy trucks; 3 trucks serving as mobile workshops; 2 tank transports; 2 ambulances, and 15 Toyota and Land Rover vehicles. A large quantity of ammunition was also seized.

Furthermore, outside the town of Zouar, which has long been under our control, the outlying district, as well as isolated enemy posts in the vicinity, have been completely cleared and are under the FANT's full control.

Despite the lesson given the Libyan occupation troops, the Libyan Air Force bombed Ouadi Doum throughout the day yesterday, 29 March 1987.

In any event, the time has come for the total liberation of our polluted lands. Nothing will stop our march!

Libyans Abandon SAM-10's

LD302129 Paris International Service in French
2030 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpt] We have just heard that when the Libyans evacuated Ouadi Doum, they are said to have abandoned on the spot four batteries of SAM-10 missiles amidst an impressive military arsenal. These are missiles that have fallen into the hands of the FANT and are of interest to the West. The SAM-10 is, in fact, a Soviet missile that can track and destroy several attackers simultaneously.

FANT Reports Fall of Ounianga

AB311405 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 31 Mar 87

[FANT High Command Communique No 62 issued in Ndjamena on 31 March]

[Text] The total liberation of our lands polluted by the Libyan barbarians continues relentlessly in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti. On 30 March 1987, the enemy garrison stationed at Ounianga in the Ennedi region came under the total control of the valiant Chadian National Armed Forces. Here are the details of the tally:

Enemy side: 30 Libyans taken prisoner.

Equipment captured: 1 Marchetti bomber plane, 15 T-55 tanks, 17 BMP tanks, 4 BM-21 Stalin's organs, 2 (?BRP) armored cars, 4 14-5 [words indistinct], 6 tankers, 7 Mercedes heavy-duty trucks, 4 Toyota troop carriers.

Equipment destroyed: one helicopter.

The mopping up operation and the flight of Libyans continue.

Bardai Notes ANL Attack on Military Camp

AB301930 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1820 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] On the military level, you should know that ANL [National Liberation Army] units have attacked the locality of (Hadre), destroying that military camp, the customs and excise office, and several vehicles (?this morning).

DER SPIEGEL Interviews Habre on War

DW301350 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
30 Mar 87 p 149

[Interview with Chadian President Hissein Habre; interviewer's name, date, and place not given]

[Text] *Spiegel*: Are you strong enough after your recent victories to drive the Libyans decisively out of their positions in northern Chad?

Habre: With god's help we will turn this battle into a Stalingrad for Al-Qadhdhafi.

Spiegel: Despite the risk of Al-Qadhdhafi possibly launching a counteroffensive with his Air Force and tanks?

Habre: We have the means to liberate all our territory. We will also win back the Aozou strip, which was annexed by Al-Qadhdhafi.

Spiegel: You can only be as optimistic as that because followers of your former rival have defected.

Habre: The civil war in Chad is over. We are fighting only againstLibyan aggression. Previously the criminal colonel in Tripoli sowed discord among us; now he is our common enemy.

Spiegel: Are you not worried that the Soviet Union supports him?

Habre: I am aware that Russian experts were involved in the Libyan aggression. It was partly because of Soviet weapons that Al-Qadhdhafi overestimated himself. From where come the guns and the poison gas that Libya has been using in Chad?

Spiegel: Have you been sufficiently supported by your most important ally, the old colonial power, France?

Habre: Not to the extent we expected in view of the Libyan threat. However, the French Government cannot accept the fact that Libya is annexing parts of the territory of a friendly country that formely did not hestitate to dispatch volunteers to fight against the Axis powers in World War II.

French Minister Predicts 'Important Operations'

AU281733 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, March 28 (AFP) — Fighting between Libyan forces and Chadian Government troops in northern Chad is not over yet and there are still "important operations" ahead, French Defence Minister Andre Giraud said here Saturday.

At a meeting of the French Army High Command, Mr. Giraud said France still did not "have very detailed information to judge the current situation in northern Chad" but that there would be "important" operations in the Tibesti region.

The minister praised the "great victories of the Chadian Army at Fada then at Ouadi Doum" and the "recapture of Faya-Largeau" on Friday.

The French minister said that "for a country (Chad) which has accepted huge sacrifices," "it is certainly a considerable satisfaction to realize that it is no longer very far from recovering its national territory."

Asked about the Aouzou strip, the northernmost Chadian region on the Libyan border, which Tripoli claims and has occupied since 1973, Mr. Giraud said: "The information we have does not allow us to forecast in an accurate way what is going to happen."

Referring to recent victories by Chadian forces, Mr. Giraud reaffirmed that "no French soldier has been involved in operations north of the 16th parallel," the so-called demarcation line that France has vowed to defend against incursion from the north.

Fada, Ouadi Doum and Faya-Largeau are situated north of the line.

The French defence minister said it was difficult to foresee the "diplomatic implications" of the recent Libyan setbacks in northern Chad.

"All the African countries have been impressed to see that one of them managed to repel the assailant. Now, everybody has realized that it was a war between Chad and Libya," Mr. Giraud said.

BENIN

Mauritania's Taya Arrives for Visit 30 Mar

AB302142 Dakar PANA in French 1824 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Cotonou, 30 Mar (ABP-BEN/PANA) — Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, the Mauritanian head of state, began an official visit today in Benin. The friendly and working visit will end on Wednesday.

The Mauritanian head of state, who arrived in Cotonou early this afternoon, was solemnly welcomed at the airport by his Beninese counterpart, President Mathieu Kerekou

After expressing his pleasure at being in Benin on his first official visit to the country, Col Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya emphasized the friendship his people feel for the Beninese people. He also emphasized that Mauritania and Benin are members of the same subregional and regional organizations.

Commenting on the discussions he will hold with President Kerekou, he said he was convinced that they will reactivate the relations existing between their two countries in all sectors. In this regard, he said that they are determined to step up the exchanges between Benin and Mauritania, as well as high-level contacts between their high-ranking officials.

Answering a question from Beninese newsmen on his country's hosting the next summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO), President Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya said that people have been speculating on the well-being of this organization because of the difficulties in reorganizing it, difficulties that were pointed out during the summit in Bamako. However, he was of the opinion that the CEAO is doing well.

On the Western Sahara, the Mauritanian head of state said that this issue is a subject of concern for his country, as well as for the entire international community. He said that efforts made by the OAU and the United Nations to solve the problem encourage us to believe that a suitable solution to this conflict will be found.

CAPE VERDE

Diplomatic Relations Established With Kuwait

AB302112 Paris AFP in French 2012 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Praia, 30 Mar (AFP) — Cape Verde and Kuwait have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, it was announced officially on Monday in Praia.

The decision, which takes effect 30 March 1987, is aimed at strenghtening the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries, an official statement added.

President Pereira Leaves for Netherlands

AB302202 Paris AFP in French 2011 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Praia, 30 Mar (AFP) — Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira left Praia on Monday for an official visit to the Netherlands from 1 through 3 April, after making stopovers in Dakar and Paris.

From 1975 to 1985, the Netherlands granted Cape Verde aid totalling more than 100 million florins. Seventy percent of this amount was used to finance local projects, an official source pointed out. [passage omitted]

GHANA

Education Official on University Unrest

AB280835 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The secretary for education and culture Dr Mohamed Ben Abdallah, today repeated that the government will not tolerate acts of hooliganism on the university campuses and said any breach of law and order will be dealt with in a very firm manner. Receiving a delegation of the University of Science and Technology authorities and student representatives led by the vice chancellor Prof Francis Kwame in his office, Dr Abdallah asked the university authority to rid their campuses of all the agitators and instigators who have for some time now sought to create unnecessary confusion and confrontation. He said that it was unthinkable that university students could react so irresponsably purely on the basis of rumors which have been proved totally unfounded.

Speaking at the meeting, Prof Kwame said the students have conceded that they overreacted in what should have been a peaceful demonstration and appealed to the government to reopen the university so that academic work is not disrupted. Reviewing the sequence of events the vice chancellor said when he heard that the students wanted to present a memorandum to the Ashanti regional secretary, he advised them to channel it through his office. This they agreed to do, and they said they would limit the demonstrations to the confines of the campus. According to Prof Kwame, they started their demonstration, and it was when they got to the outskirts of the university that they clashed with the public. Reports, however, indicate that the students did go to town and destroyed several properties while some members of the public were even assaulted. The rest of today's meeting at the Ministry of Education was held in camera.

However, a letter of apology, written and signed on behalf of the students by the executive of the SRC [Students Representatives Council], Messrs Edith Koffi and Thomas Opoku Donkor and Miss Josephine Boateng, president, secretary, and treasurer respectively, was obtained by newsmen. The students wrote, and we quote: We wish to express an unqualified apology for and on behalf of the whole student body on the excesses that ensued during the demonstration. We further recognize the fact that there had been official pronouncements, including those by the head of state on the issue of subsidy and wish to render an apology in this respect, especially to the head of state, unquote.

At today's meeting with the secretary for education, the vice chancellor repeated the students apology for their unruly behaviour. He also rendered a special apology to the chairman of the PNDC, Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings, for the students' disregard of the chairman's assurance on the matter. The vice chancellor noted that during the demonstrations there had been excesses which had not been contemplated, thus breaching public peace and regulations of the university governing student demonstration.

On behalf of the university executive committee and the SRC, Prof Kwame appealed to the government to reconsider the closure of the university because of what he described as the students' penitence. He added that the students had promised to make use of the proper avenues in putting the views of students across to the government in the future.

MALI

Traore Speech to Session of UDPM Congress

AB300903 Bamako Domestic Service in French
2015 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Address by Malian President Moussa Traore to the Second Extraordinary Session of the Democratic Union of Malian People Congress in Bamako on 28 March — recorded]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen of the congress: While welcoming you to this session of the Second Extraordinary Congress of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM], I would like, on behalf of militants, to thank our distinguished guests who honored us with their presence at this opening ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, national life has been marked of late by intense political activity, full of lessons and hope. Our people regained their confidence in the future thanks to the increasing organization of the party, which was able to mobilize them and raise their conscienceness. In fact, the Fourth Ordinary Session of the National Council, which met on 29, 30, and 31 March 1986, decided in its general resolution on having an ad hoc commission created by the council draft a charter on national orientation and a code of conduct for public life, and on (?modifying) the party statute and standing orders. These documents have been submitted to the current session. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen of the congress, the importance of this Second Extraordinary Congress of our Party can be discerned in the prevailing national and international context and in our legitimate ambition to surmount the many handicaps that impede our socioeconomic development. On the national level, the economic situation of the country remains marked by the (?persistent) economic and financial imbalances, the stagnation of many development sectors, and the (?revival) of our economic efforts. This difficult situation was fortunately lightened by favorable prospects of normal rainfall. However, the country experienced serious treasury problems followed by upheavals that temporarily diverted us from our development effort. Furthermore, the serious social preoccupation associated with the general level of revenues and the degradation in (?morals) and the measures to satisfy the increasing needs of the people in the fields of education, health, food, and shelter, constitute challenges to the party and the government.

At the same time, the international context is equally difficult, because it is characterized by a (?chronic) economic crisis, an increasing foreign debt in relation to our earnings in exports, the existence of many zones of tension, and serious dangers to peace, all constituting impediments to the development of genuine and fruitful cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen, on the political scene, the country is up against serious challenges, namely, the issue of trust among social forces, the weight of bureaucracy, and the heavy administrative centralization that adversely affects the effectiveness of development efforts, and the inadequate preparation of political decisions. It is sad to note that the economic crisis is masking a deep crisis in our society, the characteristics of which are, among other things, the loss of the power of the state and the people's loss of confidence in the political (?aspirations) of the country. [chanting of slogans]

We have observed that apart from the structural problems, there is the more serious one concerning people charged with maintaining law and order and safeguarding the public interest. In fact, the political officials were not able to assume their basic responsibility of listening to the militants, knowing their aspirations, and using with efficiency and firmness the administrative and judicial means necessary to satisfy them.

The state of national democracy, our option, favors the emergence of such a society. It is a state in which all the citizens are conscious of belonging to the same nation; where the various social forces, guided by a common objective, accept solidarity and complementarity of their resources as the basis of their action, while firmly defending the values of their national cohesion. Our action goes hand in hand with a national economic strategy based on an independent and planned national economy. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen attending the congress, the importance and the diversity of issues raised in the charter leads necessarily to the adoption of the instruments of work for militants [words indistinct] that is, the statute and the standing orders of the party. It is necessary that the UDPM remains the melting pot in which all the active forces of the nation are blended harmoniously. It is the duty of the UDPM to procure the effective means for identification and conscientization of major political issues. It is within this framework that I would like to draw your attention to some important aspects of proposed modifications made to the statute and the standing orders. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen attending the congress, the analysis of the political situation of the whole social set up, according to my own observations during my recent tour of the nation as well as during the Fourth Session of the National Council, shows that human shortcomings constitute a major constraint — a constraint that the party must overcome to achieve completely the objectives set out in the present charter and to achieve the legitimate aspirations of our people. Yet it is often noticed that many party leaders use the party for unavowed personal ends rather than to serve the party. [chanting of slogans]

This observation is equally true for many administrative cadres who dishonestly use the authority invested in them rather than serve the general interest. It is these same political leaders who cheat at the democratic game by lobbying for the support of high-ranking party personalities during elections, all to the detriment of the people. It is these same leaders who distort the principle of the supremacy of the party, and refuse to make their actions clear to party members. [applause]

It is therefore not surprising that messages of the party remain dead letters, while the people lose confidence in our institutions. It is also not surprising under these conditions that the party is not able to direct the nation's polices effectively or to get the people to accept the sacrifices these policies seek to implement, and has not succeeded in eliminating the great violations of the traditional values of our society. Militants should be informed of their duties, but they should also be informed of all their rights, notably that of freely choosing people to represent them. [applause]

From all these observations, what is brought to our attention once again is the need to rigorously apply the criteria for choosing leaders as already defined by the party. It is under this condition that the party can actually implement its policy of the right man in the right place.

Ladies and gentlemen of the congress, to end this short analysis, I would like to say that the Charter of National Orientation and Conduct of Public Life creates objective conditions for a true national upsurge. The charter helps restore confidence among the active forces of the nation to whom it proposes a contractual organization of their relationship. The charter advocates the emergence of exemplary political leaders, who are concerned with the daily preoccupations of our courageous people and scrupulously respect our laws and regulations [applause].

The charter creates for the party the basic qualitative (?organizational) conditions and an effective mobilization of the people around the nation's major (?issues). It demands the correct adaptation of the statutes and the standing orders to the present conditions of the struggle of our people. The present charter calls on political leaders and party cadres to give priority to a national vision of our development problems and to stop searching for good conduct certificates delivered by foreigners. [applause]

Militants of the UDPM present at this Second Extraordinary Congress, bearers of hope for our people, are also asked to accomplish heroic actions, notably that of succeeding in the great and exciting enterprise inherent in a national upsurge for the (?well-being) of the public and the socioeconomic redress of our country. I remain convinced that you will be able to respond to this call and that the Second Extraordinary Congress of the UDPM will mark a decisive turning point in the history of our country. [chanting of slogans]

On this, I declare open the deliberations of the Second Extraordinary Congress of the UDPM. Thank you! [applause]

NIGERIA

Decrees Issued in Response to Recent Unrest

AB301558 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Two new decrees have been promulgated by the Federal Government. One is on civil disturbances and the other concerns religious societies. The civil disturbances decree gives the president powers to constitute a special investigation committee whenever civil disturbances occur in any part of the country.

Furthermore, the decree empowers the president to set up a special tribunal to try all cases of civil disturbances. Some of the offenses that are covered by the decree are unlawful assembly, demolition of buildings during riots, insults to a religion, and disturbing religious worship. Others are murder, arson, (?managing) unlawful societies, or being a member of such a society.

The religious society decree bans all illegal societies and associations in institutions of learning throughout the country for a period of 12 months. It prohibits the formulation or the promotion of new religious societies or associations in such institutions during the period.

Any person who contravenes the decree is liable to 5 years imprisonment without an option of a fine.

These decrees give legal backing to the action taken by the government on the recent disturbances in parts of the country.

SIERRA LEONE

Momoh Discusses Recent Apparent Coup Plot

AB272008 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 27 Mar 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone called a press conference today to go over developments since last Sunday's shootout in Freetown and the discovery of large caches of arms and ammunition in two houses. The authorities claimed that some kind of coup plot has been nipped in the bud, and that it was intended to assassinate President Momoh. Since then, there have been a wave of arrests including policemen, soldiers, and others. Kaliu Kamara was at President Momoh's press conference and cabled this report:

President Momoh concentrated on the broader aspects of the plot and who might be behind it. The president asked: How could a plan of this diabolical nature have been undertaken by a group of people who, by their very (?status) in life can ill afford the financial costs of the undertaking? And, he went on, if these people turned out to be mere pawns in the game, who could have been the real players behind them?

The president was asked if any prominent Sierra Leoneans or cabinet ministers had been arrested. He told the news conference and I quote: No prominent Sierra Leonean or indeed a member of the cabinet has been apprehended apart from 15 junior army officers among the 43 being interrogated. [no reference to a closing quote as heard]

But by the end of the news conference, there was talk around town that a prominent businessman had been picked up and was being interrogated in connection with the number of Italians and Guineans who he had caused to bring into the country. [sentence as heard] In fact, [words indistinct] about seven Italians had left Sierra Leone on the very evening when the plot was discovered.

Asked whether he was contemplating a cabinet reshuffle, President Momoh declared: I refuse to answer that question. Pressed on whether he could continue to be both tough and kind-hearted even under the circumstances, his answer was most revealing; He said: This is a matter of life and death; if a man tries to kill you, and you get the upper hand over him, you can kill him. It's as simple as that.

ANGOLA

Romania's Ceausescu Begins Official Visit

MB282011 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, this evening began an official and friendly visit to the People's Republic of Angola at the invitation of the Angolan head of state, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos. On his arrival at the 4 February International Airport, the Romanian leader was received by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who was accompanied by Comrades Afonso van Dunem Mbinda and Rodeth dos Santos. Members of the Political Bureau, the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, and our government also received the Romanian head of state, who is accompanied by his wife, Elena Ceausescu, member of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and deputy Romanian prime minister. Members of the JMPLA [Youth of the MPLA], OMA [Organization of Angolan Women], UNTA [National Union of Workers of Angola], OPA [Organization of Agostinho Neto Pioneers], and of mass and social organizations paid homage to the Romanian president and his delegation. The group Uniao Mundo da Ilha [World Union of the Isle], which this year came in first at the Carnival of Victory in Luanda, was also at 4th February Airport to provide a sample of our culture and give a little show.

Official talks between the two parties began early in the evening with the delegations headed by the two presidents, Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nicolae Ceausescu. The Angolan delegation includes Minister of External Relations Afonso van Dunem Mbinda; Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loy, minister of energy and petroleum; Minister of Agriculture Evaristo Domingos Kimba; Minister of Industry Henrique de Carvalho Santos Onambwe; Carlos Antonio Fernandes, minister of transport and communications; Minister of Finance Augusto Teixeira de Matos; and Minister of External Trade Ismael Martins.

The Romanian delegation includes Elena Ceausescu, wife of the president and deputy prime minister; Deputy Prime Minister Dimitrie Ancuta; Minister of Foreign Affairs Ioan Totu; Georghe Cazan, minister of state for foreign trade [title as heard]; Romanian Ambassador to Angola Martin Iliescu; and Presidential Adviser Constantin Mitea.

Toasts Exchanged at Dinner

AU282031 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1915 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Luanda (AGERPRESS) 8/3/1987 — Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Mme Elena Ceausescu attended, on March 28, an official dinner given in their honour by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party, president of the People's Republic of Angola.

The dinner was attended by Dimitrie Ancuta, deputy prime minister, Ioan Totu, minister of foreign affairs, by other Romanian officials.

Participating were members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party, of the government, executives of mass and public organizations, other Angolan officials.

On the occasion, Nicolae Ceausescu and Jose Eduardo dos Santos proposed toasts evincing Romania's and Angola's joint wish to give new dimensions to their relations of friendship, solidarity and collaboration, to strengthen their collaboration world-wide, thus making a growing contribution to the settlement of the complex problems of today's world in the interests of peoples.

The dinner passed in an atmosphere of warm cordiality and friendship.

Dos Santos Speech

MB291534 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Speech by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at a state dinner in honor of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in Luanda on 28 March — recorded]

[Text] Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, distinguished members of the delegation, comrades:

I begin by expressing to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, as well as the accompanying delegation, our most heartfelt satisfaction at having in our midst such distinguished guests. Allow me, thus, to welcome you warmly on behalf of the Angolan people and the government of the People's Republic of Angola, and on my own behalf.

I could not but mention the importance that your first official and friendly visit to the People's Republic of Angola, during which you held meetings with the late President Dr Agostinho Neto, had for our country. These meetings amounted to a significant landmark in the relations of cooperation, friendship, and solidarity between our respective peoples and governments. The meetings gave a new dimension and a wider working basis to the relations that the MPLA had been developing with the Romanian Communist Party, and they created the conditions for broadening and diversifying the economic and trade relations between our two countries.

In our opinion the frequent talks that we have held since then, at the various levels, show our common concern for finding the best way to use the potential and existing possiblities through which our two countries can provide a framework to improve the just and multifaceted relationship on a mutually advantageous basis.

In this context, your visit constitutes an excellent opportunity for us to hold a profitable exchange of views on questions related to our bilateral relations, particularly those linked to our economic cooperation. We can give a new dimension to such cooperation, based on reciprocity, giving it greater strength to raise it to the level of our political relations. The Socialist Republic of Romania, which has traveled down the same path as other countries of the socialist community, has the natural aptitude to understand our present shortcomings and to assess correctly the process of fundamental change we have been experiencing in our society. For this and other equally important reasons, your country is among our preferred partners, and it is our hope that the cooperation goals we have set may develop (?through) specific (?projects) both in your country and in Angola. We are fully committed to achieve this and will do our best to ensure a rapid recovery of the national economy, to create conditions for development, and to ensure the improvement of the standard of living of our people.

These new goals set by the MPLA-Labor Party and the government of the People's Republic of Angola [words indisinct] a number of shortcomings, due mainly to external factors such as the war of aggression and destabilization waged by the Pretoria regime and its puppets and the effects of the world economic crisis. International imperialism [words indistinct] seek to prove through [words indistinct] terrorist actions carried out by puppet groups against defenseless people and economic targets, while alleging the impracticality of building socialism in Africa, and particularly in our country. Accordingly, their task is to [words indistinct] the justness of principles upon which are based [words indistinct] and our common struggle for peace and socialism.

On foreign policy, our governments have a common stand, namely, the defense of [words indistinct] southern Africa is still a dangerous regional and international focus of tension, the fundamental cause of which is the aggressive policy of the apartheid regime of South Africa. The peoples of southern Africa have endured enormous hardships [words indistinct] a favorable (?situation) to the forces of the national liberation movement and of social progress, thanks to that struggle. International (?awareness) about the need to abolish apartheid has also grown considerably.

It is only the U.S. Administration that, (?through) the so-called constructive engagement policy, has been maintaining a dangerous alliance with the racist South African regime, which has resulted many times in coordinated actions against the independence and sovereignty of southern African peoples, particularly the Angolan people. Actually, I could say that the impasse in the southern African situation today is due to the present U.S. Administration and South Africa, whose stand [words indistinct] in this region serve to block the application of relevant resolutions of the [words indistinct] and the Nonaligned Movement. (?They) persistently resort to fallacious pretexts, which have been rejected by the international community, and which have resulted in a delay in finding a just solution to the Namibian issue on the basis of UN Resolution 435, and a subsequent relative relaxation of tension in southern Africa.

The pressure exerted by international public opinion and the growing isolation of the South African racist regime are having a very positive influence on events, and can assist in accelerating peaceful political change in southern Africa. South Africa's allies cannot oppose this influence. Accordingly, they seek to adapt themselves to the present situation. However, they (?uphold) the same goals in the region. To fulfill these goals South Africa's allies are supporting the UNITA puppets militarily, politically, diplomatically, and at other levels in an effort to continue to destabilize our country and destroy the People's Republic of Angola.

Thus, the U.S. Government is seeking to acquire new bases of support and conspiracy in Africa to allow it to transfer the coordinating center for UNITA terrorist operations to areas further away from Namibia. The aim is to create the false impression that the puppet gang has broken its ties with the racist South African regime. The maneuver is very clear: They seek to provide political credibility to the UNITA puppets, and to weaken the OAU's cohesiveness and unity of purpose in the struggle for the total liberation of Africa, for the independence and sovereignty of people, and against the policy of destabilization carried out by the Pretoria regime against the Frontline States.

We believe that Africa as a whole will know how to neutralize this new maneuver, which is aimed at diverting us from the fundamental issue in southern Africa, namely the abolition of the racist white minority regime and the proclamation of democracy for all in South Africa. Despite all [words indistinct], the People's Republic of Angola [words indistinct] its rights as a sovereign nation, even though it has to endure further hardships to face the continued aggressions by the South African racists, its allies, and its Angolan puppets.

This fact must be faced realistically, especially by the West. There is no possible alternative to our government in Angola. (?It is with us) that dialogue should be held and an (?understanding) reached on the basis of the norms of international law governing relations among nations. Despite the profound differences between the (?leaders) of the Angolan and U.S. Governments on a number of issues, we have on several occasions stated that there is mutual ground on various issues that could be a good (?political) basis for dialogue (?to be resumed) as long as there is good faith.

Dear comrades, the prevailing situation in South Africa is cause of great concern, because the repression waged by the Pretoria government against the black population and other South African patriots had reached alarming proportions and could lead to unpredictable consequences. In view of this, it is imperative that all of the world's civilized nations should, either individually or jointly, use all the means at their disposal to make the racist South African regime conform to the demands of the international community and respect the aspirations and rights of the majority of the South African people.

We have noticed lately a positive evolution in the attitude of certain western circles toward the ANC and other South African patriotic forces. This shows that [words indistinct] that apartheid is increasingly drawing to a close, and it is necessary to step into line with the march of history. However, these timid actions do not yet match the strength that must be instilled in the general struggle by humanity against that regime. Accordingly, the Western countries, which hold the powerful means of pressuring the outdated apartheid regime, should understand that the application of global and mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa will be an important contribution to (?bringing about) positive changes through peaceful means in southern Africa. We, therefore, hail all individuals and organizations that have dissociated themselves from the inhuman apartheid regime.

Dear comrades, in addition to the problems experienced by southern Africa [words indistinct] situations remain in other parts of the world, which aggravate the complex political scene. Accordingly, we are particularly concerned with the crises in the Middle East, Central America, and other parts of the world where conflicts have been artificially provoked — conflicts that are contrary to the aspirations of freedom, peace, and progress of the peoples. These conflicts have caused suffering and enormous hardships to the peoples of Palestine, Lebanon, Nicaragua, and other countries. Always (?hidden) behind these conflicts is imperialism's desire to dominate. The solution to the present conflicts depends on the end of interference in the lives of peoples and respect for their right to choose the path to social and economic development that best suites their interests.

We believe that (?the question of peace), which greatly worries international public opinion, depends, on the one hand, on the general disarmament, and on the other, on finding just solutions to regional conflicts, since (these happen) at a time of world tension. These are the only ways of attaining true and total international stability and security.

Moreover, it is not unfair to include as part of the cause of world tension the problem of the foreign debt of countries [words indistinct] the payment of which (?has become increasingly) [words indistinct] in view of the unjust dependence [words indistinct] the less developed countries of the world. Accordingly, it has become even more imperative to create a more just and equitable international economic order. This is an old (?worry) of the Nonaligned Movement, an organization with which your country has expressed an active solidarity. It is only by dealing with all these problems in a concerted manner that one can find the solutions necessary for a stable and lasting peace.

Comrade Nicole Ceausescu, comrades, finally, I would like to wish you and your wife, as well as your delegation, a pleasant stay in the People's Republic of Angola. Allow me to toast to you and your wife's health, and to the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between our parties, peoples and governments. [applause].

Ceausescu Speaks

MB300739 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Speaking at a dinner in his honor last night, Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, said that his visit to Angola would contribute to strengthening relations between the peoples, parties, and Governments of Angola and Romania. Like Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Nicolae Ceasescu spoke about the reasons behind the conflicts in various parts of world. Accordingly, the Romanian head of state noted that [words indistinct] and (?lack) of respect for the sovereignty of states are to blame for the situation. Nicolae Ceausescu also took the opportunity to reaffirm his country's support for the new Soviet peace initiative, which proposes the signing of a Soviet-U.S. accord to remove medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe. According to President Ceasescu, Romania would prefer the elemination of all nuclear weapons and the reduction of conventional weapons throughout the world inasmuch as the (?USSR) has decided unilaterally to reduce by [words indistinct] percent its military spending. In conclusion, the RCP general secretary reaffirmed his solidarity with the Angolan people in their struggle against South African aggression, as well as with other southern African peoples.

Official Talks Continue

AU291903 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 87

["Ilie Ciurescu Dispatch from Luanda" on continuation of official talks between President Nicolae Ceausescu and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on 29 March]

[Text] This morning the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, continued his official talks with Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

In connection with the international activity examined, the two sides noted the closeness of the viewpoints of Romania and Angola. They stressed that firm and united action by all countries are imperative, a special role devolving on small-, medium-sized, and nonaligned countries to safeguard peace, solve all disputes between states by negotiations alone, curb inequities in the world economy, and completely solve the problem of underdevelopment — including the foreign debts of the developing countries — and achieve a new international economic order.

Reasserting the support we have always granted to the peoples in Africa and on other continents in the struggle against colonialism and for independence, President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed the vital need to strengthen the solidarity and cooperation of the countries that have achieved independence and have eliminated colonial domination with a view to their independent socioeconomic development as a condition for consolidating their national independence.

The two sides also stressed the need to increase the role of the United Nations in resolving all world problems.

As everywhere in the world and in the countries he has visited, President Nicolae Ceausescu and Comrade Elena Ceausescu today paid homage here in Luanda to the memory of those who have dedicated all their life to national liberation and independence and to their free and sovereign assertion. A moment of silence was observed for the Angolan people and the personality of Agostinho Neto, the founder of the Angolan nation and of the unity of the MPLA-Labor Party, at whose tomb a wreath was laid, a place that symbolizes the supreme adherence and the commendable devotion toward the cause of building an independent homeland, protected from any aggression and outside interference, and a place that symbolizes an Angola that will guarantee the well-being and a dignified life for all its sons. This place also symbolizes the constant mobilization of all Angolan people in the struggle against the aggressive acts of the South African racists whose neocolonialist practices are firmly stopped with arms in hand.

What was stressed in the toasts proposed at the official dinner given in honor of the high-ranking representatives of the Romanian people is significant for the atmosphere in which the official friendly visit to Angola paid by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, together with Comrade Elena Ceausescu, is taking place, and it is significant for fruitful dialogue.

Hailing with great warmth and great satisfaction the visit paid by the high-ranking guests from Romania, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos once again cordially welcomed them on his behalf, on behalf of the government, and all Angolan people.

He stressed the particular political importance of this event, which will permit an extensive exchange of views for expanding cooperation and collaboration, which were vigorously stimulated by previous summit meetings, and for strengthening cooperation in the international arena to establish a new, democratic, and peaceful atmosphere that permits the free and sovereign assertion of each nation and favors progress and the well-being of peoples and their dignified and independent life.

Expressing thanks for the hospitality and for the friendship shown to them when welcomed to Angolan soil, President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed that the current visit is an expression of the friendship, solidarity, and cooperation — established in the years of the struggle for Angola's liberation — between the RCP and the MPLA-Labor Party and then, after the achievement of independence, between our countries and peoples.

Romania's president expressed his satisfaction with the possibility of becoming acquainted with aspects of the work and achievements of the Angolan people and described the way in which the Romanian people are engaged, with all their forces, in implementing the 13th RCP Congress targets, which will ensure Romania's transition to a new and higher stage of socialist development.

President Nicolae Ceausescu's assessments regarding the way action must be taken — as Romania does — to build a better and more just world, without weapons and threats of force, without conflicts, inequalities, inequities, and without any discrimination — a world of cooperation, collaboration, understanding, and friendship — were followed with keen interest.

Stressing the particular political importance of his visit to Angola, the president of Romania expressed the conviction that through the Luanda talks new scope will be given to cooperation in the interests of the two peoples, of their socioeconomic development, and of strengthening their independence and sovereignty, serving at the same time the cause of disarmament and the independence of all peoples in the world.

Joint Communique Issued

MB301435 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Joint communique on visit of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to Angola issued in Luanda on 30 March]

[Text] At the invitation of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, made an official and friendly visit to the People's Republic of Angola from 28 to 30 March 1987. The Romanian leader was accompanied by Comrade Elena Ceausescu, member of the RCP Political Bureau and first deputy prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The distinguished Romanian guests were warmly and fraternally welcomed by the Angolan people, party, and government, which evidences the nature of the links of friendship and cooperation that unite the two peoples. The distinguished delegation toured economic, social, and cultural sites, noting with interest projects undertaken by the Angolan people. President Nicolae Ceausescu paid heartfelt homage to late President Antonio Agostinho Neto, the immortal leader of the Angolan revolution, and laid a wreath at his tomb.

During the talks, held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, made a profound assessment of the ways and means of increasing bilateral relations and discussed issues related to the international situation.

The Angolan delegation to the talks included Pedro de Castro van Dunem, member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and minister of state for the production sector; Afonso van Dunem, member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and minister of external relations; Evaristo Domingos, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and minister of agriculture; Rodeth dos Santos, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and secretary of state for social affairs; Henrique de Carvalho Santos, candidate member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and minister of industry; Minister of Foreign Trade Ismael Gaspar Martins; Minister of Finance Augusto Teixeira de Matos; and Antonio Carlos Fernandes, minister of transport and communications.

The Romanian delegation to the talks included Deputy Prime Minister Dimitrie Ancuta; Minister of Foreign Affairs Ioan Totu; Constantin Mitea, adviser to the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania; Gheorghe Cazan, minister state secretary in the ministry of foreign trade and international economic cooperation; and Marin Iliescu, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the People's Republic of Angola.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nicolae Ceausescu expressed their satisfaction at the level of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation in political, economic, social, and cultural fields between their peoples and countries, noting their continued (?desire) for development on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in 1979 and the decisions agreed upon at high-level meetings.

Taking into account the potentials of their national economies, and the priorities of their economic and social development programs, both presidents agreed that the relevant Angolan and Romanian organs should ensure the strengthening of (?negotiations) regarding trade growth, particularly the continued development of economic cooperation in industrial (?construction), energy, petroleum, mining, agriculture, and fishing within the same framework [words indistinct]. To strengthen development on stable basis [words indistinct] (?in the context) of economic relations, an accord on development of trade exchanges and economic and technical cooperation was signed between the government of the People's Republic of Angola and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The two presidents assessed the results of the last session of the joint commission on economic, industrial, and technical cooperation held in Luanda and (?decided) that the relevant organs of the two countries should develop strategies and take the necessary precautions for the fulfillment, under the best conditions, of goals that have been set. The two leaders jointly agreed on the role of the joint commission on economic, industrial, and technical cooperation in actively promoting economic relations between Angola and Romania.

The secretary general of the RCP and the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party highly appreciated the cooperation between the two parties on the basis of the cooperation accord between the RCP and the MPLA-Labor Party and noted the signing of the protocol of the accord's implementation in December between the two parties. The two presidents accorded significant importance to the development of friendship and cooperation between the respective trade unions, youth, women organizations, and other grass-roots organizations. The two leaders stressed the importance of regular consultations between the ministries of external relations of both countries.

Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, informed his Angolan counterpart of the [words indistinct] and achievements of the Romanian party and people in building a multifaceted and developed socialist society and of the great goals for economic and social development of Romania for the present 5-year period and until the year 2000.

Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos holds in high esteem victories attained by the Socialist Republic of Romania in all fields, particularly foreign policy, which has contributed to the maintenance of peace and international cooperation.

On the internal situation in the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos informed his counterpart about the successes attained by the Angolan people and government in light of their revolutionary process and (?in defense) of their accomplishments, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, stressing his country's contribution to liberation causes, particularly those of the peoples of southern Africa. He also mentioned the aim of the People's Republic of Angola to speed up the country's development and create material conditions for the construction of socialism, as well as efforts that the People's Republic of Angola has been making in conjunction with other southern African countries for the development of economic cooperation at the state level in the context of the process of economic development of the African continent.

The presidents of the People's Republic of Angola and of the Socialist Republic of Romania assessed (?prevailing) world problems and expressed their profound concern in view of the prevailing international situation as a result of the arms race, the use of force, the threat of force in international relations, interference and intervention in the domestic affairs of states, conflicts and wars in various parts of the world, the denial to people of the right to self-determination and the right to choose freely their own path to economic and social development, the lack of significant progress in solving problems of underdeveloped countries, and the prolonged world economic crisis. [Words indistinct] international security and profoundly affect the supreme interests of the peoples, Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nicolae Ceausescu considered that firm and urgent measures should be taken to (?avoid) confrontation [words indistinct] detente, respect for national independence, peace, and cooperation among nations.

Referring to the danger of a new world war, which would inevitably (?entail) a nuclear catastrophe and result in the (?destruction) of life on our planet, the two presidents observed that the fundamental problems of our era are those of the defense of peace, a halt the arms race, and the adoption of measures [words indistinct]. Under the present conditions it has become necessary, now more than ever before, that people and the peace-loving forces throughout the world increasingly cooperate to end the dangerous [words indistinct] of events and impose a new policy in international relations by eliminating and liquidating nuclear weapons and by defending the supreme rights of the peoples, (?the right) of man to exist, to lead a free and dignified life, and to enjoy peace.

The two presidents favored the practical realization of an effective disarmament program, the main aspect of which should be the elimination of nuclear weapons [words indistinct] with the simultaneous reduction of conventional weaponry, personnel, and military expenditure. Accordingly, Angola and Romania support the adoption of urgent measures that would lead to the liquidation of [words indistinct] of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000. [Words indistinct] considered that efforts should be stepped up to [words indistinct] conventional weapons in 25 percent by 1990 and 50 percent by the end of the century.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos (?expressed his appreciation) for the initiative of President Nicolae Ceausescu in reducing Romania's weaponry, personnel, and military expenditure by (?5) percent. He stressed that this measure represents a significant example of the effective [words indistinct] to take concrete steps in the path of disarmament.

The two presidents hailed the peace and disarmament initiatives of the Soviet Union and socialist countries, and highly appreciated Soviet proposals for the withdrawal of medium-range missiles from (?Europe) [words indistinct] this year an accord between the USSR and the United States will be the first step in the path toward freeing Europe from any nuclear threat and [words indistinct] in Europe and the world.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nicolae Ceaucescu also spoke in favor of the general ban on nuclear tests, for the prevention of the militarization of space, and for its exclusive use for peaceful purposes. Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nicolae Ceausescu expressed the hope that the present CSCE meeting in Vienna will discuss and adopt efficient measures for real progress in (?establishing) a lasting system of security on the European continent. The two leaders appreciated Romania's initiatives and actions regarding the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of peace, cooperation, and good neighborliness, free of nuclear and chemical weapons. (?Furthermore), the two countries stated their support for the creation of such [words indistinct] in northern and southern Europe and in other parts of the world as an important measure for development, disarmament, and international [words indistinct] security and understanding.

The two sides expressed their profound concern over the situation in southern Africa and strongly condemned (?the actions of destabilization) by the racist South African regime. (?Moreover), they condemned acts of aggression perpetrated against the Frontline States, particularly Angola. They stressed that these acts are aimed at destabilizing the development of the People's Republic of Angola and all countries in the region.

The (?two presidents) expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO and demanded an immediate end to the illegal occupation of Namibia and the implementation of UN Resolution 435 without any extraneous (?considerations) to its (?text).

The two delegations vigorously condemned maneuvers aimed at (?establishing) puppet governments [words indistinct] by racist South Africa, as opposed to the aspirations of the international community. The two presidents condemned the racist South African regime and [words indistinct] the application of general and mandatory economic sanctions against the apartheid regime, and expressed their solidarity with the just struggle of the South African people (?for the) abolition of the apartheid regime, under the leadership of the ANC and other South African progressive forces.

The two presidents stressed the important role of the OAU in the [words indistinct] colonialism and neocolonialism, racism and apartheid, as well as the efforts the organization has been making toward the peaceful solution of disputes and tensions in Africa. They spoke in favor of the strengthening [words indistinct] of economic cooperation among the African countries [words indistinct].

In stating their (?adherence) to the principle of exclusively peaceful solution of disputes among nations, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nicolae Ceausescu [words indistinct] in Central America, (?the Middle East), and other regions of the world; a lasting peace in the Middle East can only be attained through the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab lands occupied following the 1967 war [words indistinct] and the (?recognition) of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state and [words indistinct] security in the region. They stressed the need [words indistinct]. Accordingly, they stressed the importance of an international conference on Palestine under the auspices of the United Nations. Such a conference would be attended by the parties involved [words indistinct] to contribute toward the peace process in the Middle East. [words indistinct]

(?On the prevailing situation) in Latin America, Angola and Romania reaffirmed their support for the revolutionary struggle of the Nicaraguan people and other peoples in the region and for the (?attempts) by the Contadora group to establish an atmosphere of peace in Central America.

Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nicolae Ceausescu [words indistinct] liquidation of underdevelopment [words indistinct] a new international economic order. (?They spoke in favor) [words indistinct] of an international conference, attended by developing and developed nations on an equal footing, under the auspices of the United Nations to solve the problems of underdevelopment [words indistinct]. Such a conference will be urged to bring about accords [words indistinct] capable of (?bringing about) progress (?to backward) countries, and harmonious development of national economies as a whole. [Words indistinct] spoke in favor of [words indistinct] solidarity between [words indistinct] and developing countries, and [words indistinct]. The two presidents (?stated) that positive measures are necessary to the general political, economic, (?and social) problems [words indistinct] external debt of the developing countries on a basis of criteria [words indistinct] level of development of debtor countries, their possibilities of repayment and the efforts that they make to ensure their economic and social development. The two presidents also considered it necessary the [words indistinct] practical (?measures) on the reduction and stabilization of interest rates at reasonable levels, and to ensure [words indistinct] under preferential conditions. [Words indistinct] capable of (?bring about) progress of backward countries and harmonious development of national economy as a whole. (?The two presidents) spoke in favor of [passage indistinct] efforts being made by debtor countries to ensure economic and social development. [words indistict]

The presidents of the People's Republic of Angola and the Socialist Republic of Romania (?called attention to) [words indistinct] active participation in international life on an equal footing. [Words indistinct] especially the small and medium countries and developing countries that are directly interested [words indistinct] independence and peace. The two presidents recognized the importance of the Nonaligned Movement and its positive role in the solution of problems [words indistinct]. They stressed the importance of the deceision adopted at the heads of state and government summit [words indistinct] disarmament, elimination of the focuses of tension, and maintenance of peace in the world.

The presidents of the People's Republic of Angola and the Socialist Republic of Romania considered the United Nations [words indistinct] more appropriate (?democratic debates) is solving political, economic, and social problems in the modern world. The two presidents spoke in favor of the improvement of the role of the United Nations and other international organizations to [words indistinct] adoption of same demands [words indistinct] its role in building peace [words indistinct].

The presidents of the People's Republic of Angola and the Socialist Republic of Romania expressed their full satisfaction with the high-level meeting between Angola and Romania, and expressed the belief that the decisions agreed upon will be an important contribution to the strengthening and deepening of the relations of friendship and cooperation between (?both parties) [words indistinct].

Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, expressed his warm thanks to Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, and to the (?united) Angolan people for the hospitality and special and fraternal welcome accorded during the visit. Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, invited Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, to make an official and friendly visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction, and the dates of the visit will be established through diplomatic channles.

Ceausescu Ends Visit

AU301747 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1626 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Luanda /AGERPRESS, 30/3/1987 — Monday, March 30, RCP general secretary, Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu concluded the official goodwill visit they paid to the People's Republic of Angola upon the invitation of Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party, president of that country.

From their official residence during the visit the distinguished Romanian guests were seen off at the airport by Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

A military guard presented arms. The national anthems of Romania and Angola were played.

Near the aircraft President Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu warmly parted from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The two party and state leaders reiterated full satisfaction for their meeting and talks as well as their belief that the understandings reached provide favourable prerequisites for the expansion of relations between the two countries, parties and peoples.

SOUTH AFRICA

PFP Ad Highlights Various Election Issues

MB291651 [Editorial Report]

Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English on 29 March, on page 18, carries a full-page advertisement issued by the PFP. The ad is composed of several short articles on various election issues, a graph depicting the increasing "individual's tax burden," a chart purporting to show consumer price increases on selected goods since the 1981 election, a political cartoon, and a photograph of Colin Eglin, PFP leader.

One article, labeled "Massive Support for Alliance," is placed next to the picture of Eglin, "architect of alliance politics." "Those who know Colin Eglin . . . say he is tough: those who know him well admire his cool and steady hand on the tiller when the politics of South Africa get rough." "'A new alliance of strong, determined, reform-minded South Africans in an alternative government, is the way to save south Africa,' says Eglin; 'the PFP is committed to this.'"

Polls and their reliability is the subject of another article. Although "'nothing is easier to misread than a poll,'" according to Joan Heming, PFP marketing director, "trends are the most accurate way to look at the way voters feel about political parties." "Tracking studies" by pollsters Mark en Menings Opname show: "the PFP gaining support and now 11 percent higher than in 1981; highest ever Afrikaans speaking support; strong growth among women; and in all age groups."

Harry Schwarz, PFP finance spokesman, in another article, remarks: "I do not blame the State President for trying to keep inflation out of the election. If, after 39 years in office my party had made such an unholy mess of the economy, I would also try to keep it out of the election." He reports Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock as saying: "'There is no doubt that valid criticism can be raised against many aspects of past and present official economic policy.'" "That is the understatement of the year! The reality is that inflation is an election issue."

Under the heading "Security for all," the ad says: "In the process of bringing about racial harmony and prosperity the PFP recognises the crucial need for stability. At its founding congress, the PFP resolved that '"no party, organisation or person guilty of seeking to overthrow consitutional government by violence or revolution should be allowed to operate.'"

"The apartheid state has spawned a truly enormous governmental structure to support itself, a gravy train of gargantuan proportions," reports an article under the heading "How Much Government Can We Afford?" It goes on to tabulate the number of ministers and deputy ministers and deputy ministers created under the policy of "own" and "general" affairs, as well as the "self-governing states" and the "non- independent national states." "Truly, South Africa has become the most over-governed society outside the Iron Curtain. The National Party has admitted that inflation is one price we pay for their apartheid policies." "Reflecting their dilemma [NP MP for Primrose] Dr

Welgemoed commented: 'To solve the problem of inflation is very easy. We could do it this evening, however this coutnry would burn tomorrow since people would then be unemployed on a large scale.' The NP has no solution."

"It's Time To Reverse the Trend" proclaims another article. "The apartheid chickens have come home to roost." "The price of apartheid now is soaring inflation, hefty income taxes, lower living standards and a country with serious economic problems." "It is time for a new Government, one that will solve the underlying causes of our disastrous economy and understands that political reform is needed for economic growth. The PFP understands this."

Conservative Party Issues Election Manifesto

MB301323 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0934 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 30, SAPA — The Conservative Party will evict illegal residents from the group areas and adopt a no-nonsense attitude towards a range of other issues should it come to power, according to its election manifesto released today.

The party's information chief, Dr Connie Mulder, told a press conference in Pretoria that, following the failure of the National Party's power sharing policy, the CP offered the only alternatives.

He said that while the NP had "raped" the Group Areas Act by failing to enforce it, the CP would send illegal residents "back to where they belong."

"Pen Kotze said they didn't fall from the sky," he said.

Similarly, there was no black in South Africa not belonging to a homeland — this was evident from traffic to the homelands over weekends.

According to the manifesto, the CP stands for the partitioning of nations within South Africa, price control to stamp out inflation, and the reduction of personal tax.

Dr Mulder asked whether President P.W. Botha was receiving donations from the "big companies," after the tax burden had been shifted from the companies to individuals.

He added that the CP would not freeze pension increases for whites while giving blacks and coloureds increases.

"The party will contain law and order with a firm hand," and not tolerate foreign interference." [quotation marks as received]

Worrall Supports Regional Federal Parliament

MB301701 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The independent candidate in the Helderberg constituency, Dr Denis Worrall, says he beleives that all South Africans should be given the vote in one parliament, not necessarily on the basis of one man, one vote, but certainly on a regional federal basis. He told the Cape Town Press Club that single uniform answers for South Africa were going to be extremely difficult to find, and therefore he favored regional initiatives such as the KwaZulu-Natal Indaba.

Buthelezi Endorses Tutu's Call To End Violence

MB271705 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1701 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Ulundi, March 27, SAPA — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi says he endorses Archbishop Desmond Tutu's call to the ANC for brotherly love to defuse current violence in Natal/KwaZulu.

The chief minister of KwaZulu was commenting in a statement on the archbishop's recent meeting with ANC leader Mr Oliver Tambo in Lusaka where Archbishop Tutu apparently called for "Christian commitment" to end the violence.

Chief Buthelezi said if this was the tenor of the talks, he wholeheartedly subscribed to them.

He said he hoped they discussed tensions between rival groups, like UDF and Inkatha and UDF and AZAPO.

Chief Buthelezi said he would like to see Archbishop Tutu "play a significant reconciliatory role in our country between black and black and between black and white."

Chief Buthelezi said if church leaders were involved in negotiation between rival groups, "we have the hope of church leaders effectively bringing God's message of peace and love to all," and there was no doubt that it would "augur well for our future."

"The need for peaceful change, non-violence, reconciliation and negotiation is crucial," Chief Buthelezi said.

He said he regretted the ANC's continued commitment to violence and wondered whether Archbishop Tutu had changed his mind about "his previously stated support for the aims as opposed to the methods of the ANC."

Buthelezi Says Whites Must Come 'Halfway'

MB290958 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0928 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Escourt March 29 SAPA — If whites did not meet halfway with those committed to peaceful change, the future of their children and those of blacks would be destroyed by the forces of violence and anarchy, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday. He warned that blacks would never be governed willingly without universal adult franchise and that their cherished ideal was one man one vote in a unitary state. Compromise was possible, however, if an alternative could be found which served the essentials of democracy, the KwaZulu Chief minister and Inkatha president said in opening the Lions trade fair here.

Chief Buthelezi said that, whatever its critics might say, the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba had shown that much goodwill was still being generated in this region by people of all race groups. Natal people were often portrayed abroad as more liberal than whites in other provinces. Now was the time for them to show whether or this was a fallacy. "Let us see the so-called liberal whites of this region put their money where their mouths are as far as commitment to human rights and to the Christian ethic is concerned," he told the audience.

There were people committed to destroying South Africa economically, "and unless we rally and stand together as one people in one land they will succeed." The options were either to ensure that they did not succeed or to make it easier for them to do so.

Mr Duncan du Bois, the Conservative Party's candidate for Mooi River in the general election, had portrayed him to the white electorate of Natal as a danger. "I am not a danger to anyone in this province or in South Africa," Chief Buthelezi said. "It is racists of Mr Duncan du Bois's ilk who are a danger to us all. Whites of Natal have known me and my politics long enough to judge for themselves whether they should believe racists of this ilk, merely because they have white skins like themselves, or someone like me who, although I have a black skin, has proved his bona fides to them over and over again."

Over the years this region had not burned as much as elsewhere because of his and Inkatha's stabilising force. Black youth in the area were constantly courted by the forces of violence who pretended that they wanted to improve black education ("which does need improvement") in schools. All they really wanted was to preach Marxist-Leninism in preparation for the classical revolution they were brewing.

Chief Buthelezi said that without equality before the law and the constitution the heart of the country's economic and political life would be destroyed. Black South Africans would never be governed willingly unless there was universal adult franchise. Their cherished ideal was a one-man-one-vote system in a unitary state. "But I can give this audience the assurance today that we are prepared to compromise if we can find an alternative which will serve the essentials of democracy."

These principles could be found in such as a federal system or a Swiss canton system — "we need to search for a formula in which the principles of democracy are not destroyed in the compromises we each make to meet the other halfway." It was suicidal for South Africa to try to rediscover democracy for itself.

KwaZulu Legislator Killed; Investigation Begins

MB301649 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1544 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Ulundi March 30 SAPA — The member of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly for Nquthu, Chief Mboniseni Mazibuko, was assassinated at the weekend, and KwaZulu police are investigating.

SABC radio news reports Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in the assembly at Ulundi today that the motive for the killing was not known. He said Chief Mazibuko had been attacked by two armed men while driving with his wife on an isolated road in the Nquthu district. Chief Buthelezi said Chief Mazibuko tried to escape, but was struck down by several bullets. His wife was also wounded and is being treated in hospital, the radio said.

Information Bureau Issues 30 March Unrest Report

MB311039 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1036 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 31, SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400 March 30 follows:

"A black man, Mr Petrus Malanga, 68, was killed last night when a group of about 80 black radicals fired a shot at his home in Semoane (Soweto). The group then threw a petrol bomb at the house causing extensive damage. No arrests have yet been made and police investigations are continuing.

"Five black youths were arrested by the security forces after they stoned a private vehicle in Zwide (Port Elizabeth). No injuries were reported.

"The security forces arrested 21 black men yesterday after members of the SA Railways and Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU) intimidated other black persons at the Meyerton railway station."

Ends report

The bureau also provided the following correction and explanation regarding statistics relating to unrest:

"Correction of statistics pertaining to the unrest situation as a result of the fact that the Bureau for Information is constantly involved in a process of reviewing unrest related statistics.

"The provisional figures for 1986 which were released in January 1987, are herewith corrected to read as follows:

Number of deaths 935

Number of injured 2516

"The Bureau for Information has set itself the goal of disseminating accurate information. Therefore, available information is constantly cross-checked with new information which becomes available and, when necessary, the bureau will, as in this case, not hesitate to put out a correction."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB310628[Editorial Report]

STAR: Polls Indicate Move Away From NP

A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 30 March says it appears from the various opinion polls on the coming elections which were conducted recently that "a major Opposition breakthrough looks unlikely." But it has emerged that "the Government is fighting an election on policies which many Nationalist voters themselves regard as having failed." "In almost every respect, except their own perceptions of themselves as traditional Nationalists, these voters are ready to vote against the Government." "The Independents have spurred something of a groundswell away from the Nationalists. It can be taken farther. There are still several weeks before polling day, and the electorate can be persuaded further to vote the way they feel rather than the way their party ties dictate."

Call For Anti-apartheid Unity

"If all anti-apartheid opposition could be mobilised both inside and outside Parliament in a thrust to get the Government out, there would be room for both the excercise of votes and the extra-parliamentary pressure of the voteless," writes Joyce Harris of the Black Sash on the same page. "The UDF has obviously given much thought to its election call, but it has not succeeded in eliminating inherent contradictions," for "it has stopped short of calling for a boycott." "The UDF wants non-violent change. So does the PFP. So, it seems, do defaulting members of the National Party. The sort of society they envisage as taking the place of the present one is probably different, but not beyond the parameters of negotiation." Harris says "the real engine for change may well lie outside Parliament. But unless the change is to be violent and revolutionary the engine will have to drive Parliament into initiating the process of change, and 'fellow South Africans committed to the liberation of our people' may see participation in this admittedly farcical 'sideshow' election as possibly their last chance to throw their weight behind peaceful change."

BUSINESS DAY on Destabilization Pressure

"As apartheid begins to disintegrate, the international community has been coining a new justification for pressure on SA: destabilization," notes Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 30 March in a page 6 editorial. "This is the perfect excuse for sanctions, blockades and, if you so choose, war. It enables professional lobbyists to blame SA for all the troubles of Mozambique where the civil administration has collapsed as a result of socialist policies and the expulsion of the economically productive Portuguese, and where nearly 4-million people are said to be threatened with starvation." "The more Mozambique subsides into misery, the more ammunition it will give to the campaign against SA."

NP Welcomes CP-HNP Pact Failure

"The National Party has recovered some of its cockiness, partly because the rescheduling of the country's foreign debt has removed a nagging fear of economic failure, but more because the squabbling of the rightwing parties seems likely to go through to the election," says Ken Owen on the same page. "The effect of a pact between the CP and the HNP is impossible to assess. The professional politicians of other parties tend to denigrate it, as they must; but the truth is that a pact, in combination with a 5 percent shift in voting, or in combination with an extraneous factor such as sharply increased registrations, might well have sweeping results in the Transvaal and Free State. That is why Nationalist spirits flag with every suggestion of a rightwing pact, and soar again when that prospect is destroyed by squabbles. At least it puts off the real Afrikaner showdown over reform until 1989."

CAPE TIMES Critical of NP Support of Apartheid

A page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 27 March says that from what Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis says "we may take it that ethnic grouping remains the Nationalist government's fundamental constitutional concept and that both racial classification and the Group Areas Act, with compulsory segregation of schools and residential areas, remain the very essence of the system." "As long as Botha-Heunis system prevails, the social and economic fabric of life in South Africa will be caught in a vice of racial legislation, strangling economic growth and killing prospects of negotiation. A vote for the National Party anywhere is a vote for apartheid — and racial strife without end."

CAPE TIMES: Elections Not Irrelevant

"In a policy statement on the all-white elections, the United Democratic Front (UDF) says the May 6 poll was 'a farce' because the 'minority of South Africans will elect a parliament that will attempt to determine the future of the majority of South Africans,'" says a page 10 editorial in *Cape Times*. The editorial says that even though the elections may be a farce, they are "not irrelevant," since "the nature of white control in South Africa will be directly affected by the results. It is unlikely that the PFP or the CP will oust the government on May 6, but if that were to happen it would certainly influence the course of events in South Africa." "Perhaps the UDF itself recognised these possibilities by not directly calling on its white supporters to boycott the elections. Farcical as the May 6 election may be, particularly to black people, it simply cannot be ignored."

Elections for Africans Possible

A further editorial on the same page comments on P.W. Botha's "hint that elections for Africans may be held soon, presumably to allow the 'real leaders' to test their popularity amongst the new category of persons in the South African political lexicon — the bona fide black voter." "If Mr Botha is serious about all this, some rather interesting departures from current practice and policy would necessarily follow. For starters, all political prisoners would have to be released so that they could have their popularity tested at the polls. Then, of course, all political organizations would have to be unbanned and exiles allowed to return to South Africa. The state of emergency would have to be lifted to allow individuals and bodies to organise freely. In fact, there would be all sorts of refreshing changes to the political scene in South Africa."

SOWETAN on Detention Laws

"While the government has laws that make racial incitement a crime, they are the chief culprits in creating ill-feeling between the races of this country," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 30 March. *Sowetan* feels "a chill of apprehension" every time someone is detained under the state of emergency. "It is no exaggeration to suggest that these vicious laws have caused the serious divisions in South Africa today. Rightly or wrongly, blacks tend to link deaths in detention not only with the Government but with those who have elected such a government into power. The bitterness and hate that are sown because of one death in detention nullifies all the goodwill, most of the reform and makes the job of those who wish to see a peaceful situation develop even harder."

RAPPORT on Stability

A page 24 editorial in Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 29 March says "stability clearly remains a keyword in the South African political scene. It is a keyword for the whites who are going to the polls, but no less for the black South Africans who experience the forces of anarchy more noticeably. Even the independents' manifesto says that stability should not be threatened." The paper further says that "the situation in which the PFP finds itself now and that has placed it in the embarrassing position of trying to ride on the back of the independents cannot be seen separately from its attitude toward law and order: The majority of the electorate simply does not trust security in the hands of the PFP." The paper says "the right attitudes" toward these dilemmas must be cultivated. "Now is the opportunity for everyone to break new ground."

NP To Negotiate With Blacks

Industrialist Dr Albert Wessels writes on the same page that the election "will not be so much about the number of seats won by the individual parties" but about the number of seats won by the three broad political groupings, the "NP, the right wing, and the left wing. These voting percentages should be accepted as the result of a sort of national referendum concerning the future policy of the country." Wessels believes that the election concerns: "stability, powersharing, and negotiation to achieve powersharing." There is agreement concerning stability, but "powersharing is indeed a difficult concept. The distribution of power can destroy all power, since unbiased powersharing is not possible if there remains enough power to extract justice." Concerning negotiation to achieve powersharing Wessels says "the NP is asking for a mandate to negotiate with black people. Let us not give it a mandate, but order it to go ahead and negotiate. I still believe that the NP and the state president are the only instruments that can bring about reform."

TRANSVALER Criticizes CP Statements

A page 18 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 27 March says "it is unfortunate that certain right-wing candidates cannot contain their trigger-happy statements in public gatherings." The paper refers to the CP candidates for Wonderboom and Parys who said at a gathering in the Goudveld in the Orange Free State that "stone throwers in the black townships must be summarily shot dead 'better in a small massacre now than a greater bloodbath later.'" *Die Transvaler* sees it as playing with fire when such statements are made when "right thinking people are striving for a reconciliation."

DIE BURGER Defends NP Reform

A page 16 editorial in Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 27 March says that there are no grounds for the accusation that the government is "dragging its feet on the reform issue." "President Botha has made it clear that blacks should get political rights at the highest level. The NP election manifesto spells out that the government is asking for a mandate to go ahead with the negotiating process." "A great stumbling block has been that few black leaders have come forward to participate in the negotiations. It is not the government which is delaying the process, but the intimidators operating as agents for the powers who stoke the revolution." "To say that the government does not have the will to continue with reform is purely opportunistic distortion of the facts."

SWAZILAND

Trade Levies Imposed on Mozambique-Bound Goods

MB270816 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Swaziland has imposed, without warning, heavy trade levies on South African goods passing through the country to Mozambique. Exporters must now pay a 40 percent refundable deposit on the value of goods. The move is apparently aimed at stopping exporters illegally selling Mozambique-bound goods at higher prices in Swaziland, and authorities say the money will be returned if exporters have a South African customs form stamped in Mozambique at the Swazi exit post.

The move has struck businessmen, and according to freight companies it has already come into effect. A South African Trade and Industry official says a ministerial note has been sent to Swazi authorities to clarify the situation. He says, in his words: At the moment we haven't a clue what is going on up there.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda: Commonwealth 'Softening' on Sanctions

MB261806 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
26 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] Lusaka — Zambia's Dr Kenneth Kaunda has reported a "softening" in attitudes over the sanctions issue which last year was threatening the Commonwealth.

He said the threat had receded because the British public had made it clear that it did not support the view of the Thatcher government on sanctions against South Africa.

"In view of what countries like Australia, Canada and New Zealand, the white Commonwealth, have done and, above all, what the people of Britain have been doing, that danger has receded," he said.

In Britain, as in the U.S., the labour movement, churches, and students had all clearly demonstrated their support for the black Commonwealth countries. "I thank the British people who have made Barclays Bank withdraw from South Africa," President Kaunda said. "I hope many more are going to withdraw."

Dr Kaunda criticised the attitude of the British and U.S. governments which, he said, in trying to postpone action against apartheid, risked a much more violent result when South Africa eventually exploded.

"They say: 'We want platinum and gold and we don't want to get this from the Soviet Union'. What short-sightedness. It's incredible that governments cannot see the danger of this approach.

"I'm saying that we don't want to destroy the economy of South Africa. We want it. We need it. But it will not be there. Nothing will come out of South Africa if we allow this explosion to take place. If they do not move, they will live to regret their inaction," he said.

Kaunda Decries UN Inaction on RSA Sanctions

MB280803 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The president, Dr Kaunda, has criticized members of the United Nations for continuing to pay lip service to the problems of South Africa. Speaking when a United Nations envoy called on him yesterday, Comrade Kaunda said the South African racist regime could have collapsed if the member states had lived up to the expectations of the United Nations Charter. Comrade President Kaunda told Mr (Vijay Ramajal), the director of the United Nations (?Office for) Special Political Questions, that at the moment most members of the international body were only speaking against the racist regime and taking no action against it. He stated that if all members of the United Nations acted against South Africa, there was no doubt that the apartheid regime could have collapsed in no time.